CHCC sees need for, hindrances to a hyperbaric chamber. PAGE 2
Passport Office passes State Department inspection. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

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Ex-DPS chief, ex-cop want bail back

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Former Department of Public Safety commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero and former police officer Jesse Salas Concepcion are asking that all their cash and property that they posted as bail be returned to them following the high court's ruling last Friday.

Immediately following the Supreme Court's denial of the Commonwealth's petition for a writ of mandamus to reinstate charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree against Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion, the defendants, through their counsels, asked the Superior Court to exonerate all bail conditions and to return all the cash and properties they posted as bail.

A writ of mandamus is an order from a court to a gov-

See BAIL on Page 4

ANCESTOR WORSHIP
Japanese Consul to the CNMI Kinji Shinoda bows at the Okinawa Peace Memorial in Marpi to pay his respects to Japanese soldiers who died fighting for their country during World War II. Members of the Japan War Bereaved Families Association also held a similar ceremony on Tinian over the weekend. ERWIN ENCINARES

See story on Page 5

'Increased demand from higher end visitors'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The top official of the Marianas Visitors Authority sees the CNMI breaching the 600,000 mark in tourist arrivals in fiscal year 2018 as a good sign that the Commonwealth is not hyper-actively growing beyond what the hotel industry capacity allows.

Concepcion

Though the number is lower than last year's, MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said this only means that the slight contraction means "this is the time for hotels to reinvest in their properties, to renovate their rooms, restaurants, grounds and facilities to meet growing demand from up-and-coming markets like Taiwan and

See VISITOR on Page 4

Red Cross honors 3-term governor

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter used Saturday's Club 200 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan to not only mark the chapter's 40th anniversary, but also to honor the late Pedro P. Tenorio, who was a three-term governor of the CNMI.

Tenorio

The award presented to the former governor last Saturday credited him with the chapter's creation in the CNMI. According to American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsch, Tenorio established the chapter during his term.

"He provided the infrastructure for us to establish the

See RED CROSS on Page 4

Sentencing of suspect in 'meth' case OK'd for next year

The federal court granted yesterday a joint request by the prosecution and defense to move the sentencing of David Muña Sablan in connection with the two bags that he left behind in Garapan that contained chemicals and items used in making methamphetamine or "ice."

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona postponed Sablan's sentencing to Jan. 18.

Accordingly, Manglona said, the final presentence investigation report shall be filed by the U.S. Probation Office by Jan. 4.

Manglona said the deadline for the parties to file any sentencing memorandum and related materials is also reset

See SUSPECT on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
A community says its last goodbyes to eight of 20 victims of a limousine crash.

PAGE 14

ASIA
Malaysian Prime Minister-in-waiting Anwar Ibrahim said he felt "vindicated."

PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE
Melania Trump says she loves President Donald Trump and ignores cheating rumors.

PAGE 19

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Local

Ex-casino workers seek answers

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 80 foreign workers whose job contracts were abruptly terminated by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC are hoping to know the reason for their predicament.

IPI, in a statement, said that they are moving to hire the local and U.S. citizen workers that were previously under Guam-based contractor Pacific Rim Contractors, that's why they had to let go of the foreign workers. "The purpose of the reduction is to adjust the level of supply based on the demand of construction project."

"This adjustment is in line with effective workforce planning and efficiency improvement of the project," added IPI in the statement.

The 80 workers arrived on Saipan in separate groups, from May to July, and they were given conditional employment from Sept. 1, 2018 to Jan. 30, 2019. However, IPI terminated them last Friday, Oct. 12.

The workers are all Filipinos and had previously worked in other construction sites in the Middle East. They were directly hired by IPI through an employment agency in the Philippines.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is set to meet them on Wednesday morning. The 80 workers went to the CNMI Department of Labor yesterday where officials met with them and talked to a smaller group. Details of the meeting were kept confidential.

One of the workers, who requested anonymity for fear of backlash, told *Saipan Tribune* that they experienced discrimination in the construction site and were told do jobs that were not stated in their job contracts.

The worker said that their group feels helpless right now as they have been told different statements by their supervisors. "There's a lot of speculation regarding our termination. IPI management didn't give any official statement on…why we are terminated."

"We are appealing to anyone who can force IPI to give their statement so that we can defend ourselves from what we just experienced. We can't defend ourselves and they [IPI] have been telling us different reasons. Some are saying that we're not qualified for the job or that we're hard-headed."

He added that Filipino workers are usually preferred by foreign employers for the quality of work they do. "Filipino workers are also known to multi-task and have many skills. We do work that we are told to do, even though it is no longer in our job description." Another worker said some of those who were hired as masons or plumbers were either asked to do carpentry work or assemble scaffolding, which needs another set of particular skills.

"There's one mason who has yet to do mason work and was tasked to sweep the area while there's a plumber who was asked to do carpentry. … On top of this, we assemble scaffolding, which we're not qualified to do. There are certified workers who assemble scaffolding because it is very dangerous.

"We were also promised that we're going to be reimbursed for the costs of our [work] visas, the medical checkup, and for our personal protective equipment."

He added that they have yet to receive reimbursements, especially for the hard hats, construction vests, and safety shoes. "We should have been reimbursed during the first week of our work here. And we received word that the reimbursement will be included in our last paychecks."

The workers, who are getting paid $14 to $16 an hour, said they face an uncertain future as they might return to the Philippines without the assurance of work. "We're embarrassed to go back to the Philippines. …IPI harmed our employment records. We're at a disadvantage here but IPI is saying that we are at fault, that's why we're terminated. We were told that we might go back to the Philippines tomorrow with IPI shouldering our return tickets."

Bank owner in settlement talks with man over shaking elevator

The owner of Bank of Guam has been holding some settlement talks with a man who sued the bank in federal court over alleged injuries he suffered when a cup of hot coffee he was holding spilled on his hand after the elevator in the bank's building in Garapan shook violently.

Petersburg

At a status conference last Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona asked for an update in the lawsuit filed by Randyl W. Kruid against BankGuam Holding Co.

According to the minutes of the conference, Kruid's lawyer, Benjamin Petersburg, told the court about the settlement talks, saying they expect to resolve the matter in the next couple of weeks.

Petersburg said they are also trying to locate an expert in elevator maintenance and noted there is a possibility of adding a party to the case.

Thomas Clifford, counsel for BankGuam Holding Co., agreed that there have been such discussions.

Manglona noted the deadlines for discovery were approaching and stated that the parties can request for an earlier settlement conference if they would like to schedule one.

Kruid is suing BankGuam for negligence. He is demanding unspecified damages.

According to the complaint, Kruid spilled hit coffee on his hand last Nov. 22 when the elevator at the Bank of Guam building shook as he was going up to the fourth floor, where he worked.

Kruid's hand was allegedly severely burned and required medical attention. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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CHCC sees need for, hindrances to a hyperbaric chamber

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña recognizes the need for a hyperbaric chamber to treat a common but lethal diving condition, while also weighing the possible implications of procuring equipment that size.

Muña noted in an interview last week that procuring a hyperbaric chamber to treat decompression sickness—also known in the medical world as Caisson disease or "the bends"—is considered a need rather than a want.

Decompression sickness occurs in scuba divers when they surface too quickly after a deep dive, causing pressurized gases to form in tissues and the bloodstream, potentially killing by congestion of the lung and circulatory shock.

Muña noted that considering how attractive the CNMI is for divers, making the equipment necessary, the actual procurement of the chamber poses a challenge due to its size.

"We know there is a need, but we need to find a location for it," she said. She added that if she had to, she would place the chamber across the street of the Commonwealth Health Center and it would be included in their expansion proposal. She noted that it was still currently in discussion.

"…Ultimately, it's all about patient safety," she said. "We want to make sure patient safety is secured. Right now, in a building that is over 30 years old and being the only hospital, it is something we really have to be extra careful that equipment such as the hyperbaric chamber that has oxygen pressure, is safe."

The hyperbaric chamber treats the bends in divers or aviators by reintroducing the body to increased pressures, allowing the gas pockets formed in the bloodstream and in tissue to dissolve in the bloodstream.

Soon after procuring $1.8 million in brand new hospital equipment, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that outfitting the hospital with a hyperbaric chamber is also being looked at.

Torres and other members of the 20th CNMI Legislature were included in a tour of the hospital to see some of the new equipment and software.

Torres noted in a previous interview that about $4 million would be used to procure the hyperbaric chamber, including other hospital equipment.

Probationer summoned for allegedly drinking

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has summoned a probationer who was allegedly found drinking beer in violation of the conditions of his probation.

In issuing the summon, Manglona ordered Hermanny Palacios Santos Jr. to appear in court on Oct. 17 to explain why his supervised release should not be revoked.

The judge issued the summons after the U.S. Probation Office reported that Santos admitted consuming alcohol last Sept. 15.

According to U.S. probation officer Gregory F. Arriola, he and another U.S. probation officer visited Santos' place of work last Sept. 15 at 8:11pm. Santos was subjected to a random breathalyzer test and was found with a 0.156 percent blood alcohol content, which is above the legal limit in the CNMI. When confronted with the test results, Santos claimed to have used mouthwash prior to reporting for work.

Arriola said they informed Santos that the use of mouthwash two hours earlier would not cause him to test positive for alcohol use.

Arriola noted that they detected the odor of beer on Santos' breath.

Arriola said Santos then admitted that he had consumed two cans of beer prior to reporting to work.

Arriola said they instructed Santos to cease any further use of alcohol and reminded him that at the time he committed the offense he was under the influence of alcohol.

Santos is currently performing a court-ordered 100 hours of community service. He continues to report to his substance abuse treatment sessions and undergo random drug tests. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MCS films shine at Guam int'l film festival

"Sheer genius."

This is what Don Muña, acclaimed filmmaker and co-founder and executive director of the Guam International Film Festival, or GIFF, had to say about Mount Carmel School's W*e Drank Our Tears* film series.

All films in the series, *Francisco Babauta's Story, Benjamin Abadilla's Story,* and *Rafael Mafnas's Story"* were nominated for the festival's Best Made in Marianas Award for two years in a row.

Coming off the success of the films at GIFF, encore screenings of all three films will be held tomorrow, Oct. 17.

In recognizing the student filmmakers, Muña said: "The maturity in the visual perspective and the historical knowledge that the students from Mount Carmel School have shared through their work is proof we can preserve, restore and perpetuate our culture by bridging the generational gap through visual communications."

"The film series, *We Drank our Tears*, is sheer genius and what I would define as a digital cultural immersion," he added.

Muña was echoed by his collaborator in filmmaking, GIFF program director and brother, Kel Muña. In a message to MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Kel Muña wrote, "I just wanted to sincerely thank you and your students for attending the festival and for being such a big part of its success this year." Kel Muña added, "Their energy onstage was priceless."

The Muña brothers achieved international acclaim with their groundbreaking debut film, 2008's Shiro's Head. Written, produced, edited, and produced by the Muña brothers, with an original soundtrack developed by the bothers as well, Shiro's Head has been recognized by dozens of film festivals worldwide.

The film was nominated for major awards at the Strasbourg International Film Festival in France, the Los Angeles Asian Pacific film Festival, and Louis Vuitton Hawaii International Film Festival. The film went on to win the Silver Ace Award at the Las Vegas International Film Festival and the Best Feature Film and Best of Festival awards at the Sandhills Film Festival.

Don and Kel Muña, front, left and right, the co-founders and executive director and program director, respectively, of the Guam International Film Festival, gather with the directors of the *We Drank Our Tears* films, back, left to right, Justin Ocampo, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, and Angelo Manese. The photo was taken after the 10th anniversary special screening of the groundbreaking and internationally acclaimed Shiro's Head, which was written, produced, edited, scored, and directed by the Muña brothers. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Justin Ocampo, left, co-director of *We Drank Our Tears: Rafael Mafnas's Story,* listens to Kel Muña during a post-film discussion at the 2018 Guam International Film Festival. Muña is the program director of the festival, which he founded in 2011 with his brother, Don, after the success of their award-winning film Shiro's Head.

After the success of Shiro's Head, the Muña brothers turned their attention to cultivating filmmakers in the Marianas and establishing a filmmaking presence in the region by launching GIFF in 2011.

GIFF aims to unify, celebrate and showcase to the region and the world the collective experience through the universal medium of film. Over the years, the Muña brothers have expanded the scope of GIFF to promote community, education, and entertainment. This has included collaborations with local and international filmmakers, providing industry lectures, panels and workshops at public and private schools as well as at the university level.

Cast and crew members of the *We Drank Our Tears* films participated in a film seminar led by University of Hawaii's Dr. Tom Brislin at the University of Guam as part of the 2018 Guam International Film Festival. The cast and crew gathered with Dr. Brislin, back row, third from right, for a photo after the seminar. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some cast and crew members of the *We Drank Our Tears* films participated in the 2018 Guam International Film Festival and awaited the kickoff at the Guam Museum. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This emphasis on educational outreach is one main reason the Muña brothers were so moved by Mount Carmel School's We Drank Our Tears film series. As Don Muña put it, "What a dream come true it is to see youth filmmakers emerging from our Mariana Islands community."

Kel Muña said, "You all have helped me see that the festival's community and education pillars are becoming strengthened."

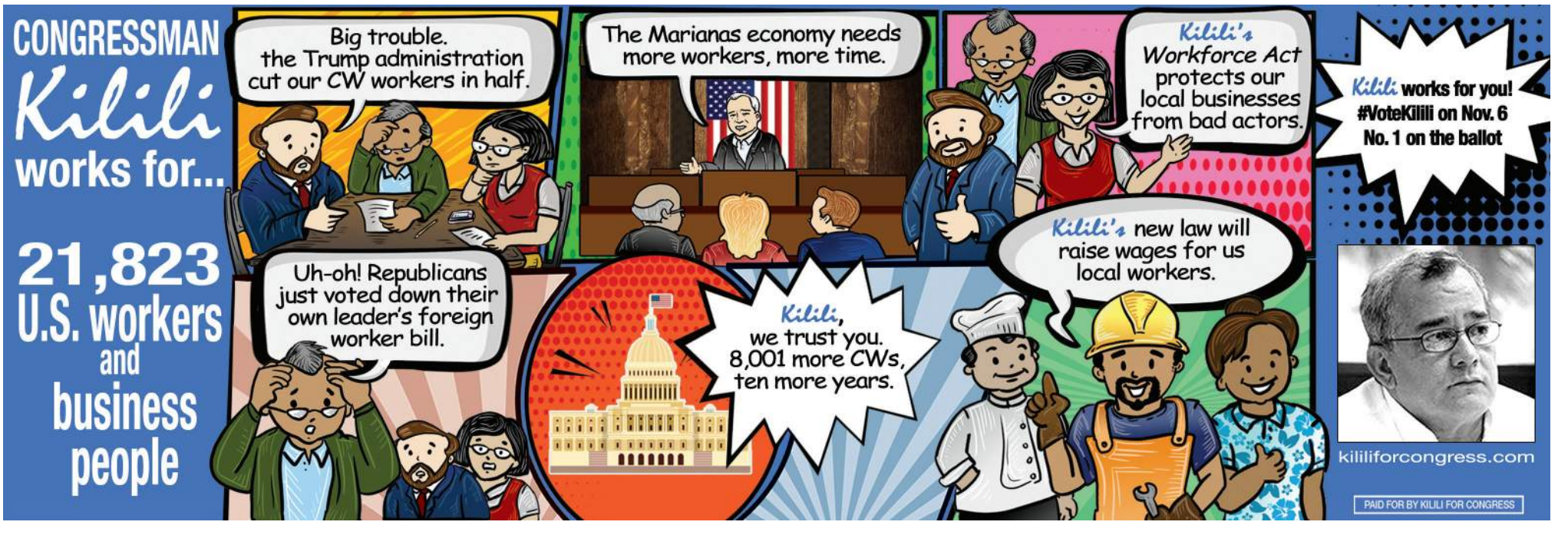
The Muña brothers were not alone in their praise of *We Drank Our Tears*. GIFF head juror and associate dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at University of Hawaii, Dr. Tom Brislin, recognized the films for telling important stories. "The people of the islands need to tell their stories from their perspectives in their voice. That is what these students from Mount Carmel School have done."

Some cast and crew members from the films travelled to Guam to attend the 2018 GIFF. Underwritten by the CNMI Public School System Federal Programs, 10 members of the cast and crew attended the screenings of their films and other films at the GIFF. Cast and crew members also participated in filmmaker panels at the festival and a film seminar at the University of Guam led by Dr. Brislin.

Produced by the school's Theatre Club and TRIBE Marianas, the *We Drank Our Tears* films are adapted from *We Drank Our Tears*, a 2004 oral history of the civilian experience of World War II battles on Saipan and Tinian, published by Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation. In 1944, some of the final battles of World War II were waged on the Pacific islands of Saipan and Tinian. A total of 933 indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch civilians did not survive the battles, and the films chronicle some of their stories.

Francisco Babauta's Story, which was written and directed by Galvin Deleon Guerrero, tells the story of Babauta's efforts during the war to find food, shelter, and safety for his family. *Benjamin Abadilla's Story*, which was also written and directed by Deleon Guerrero, follows Abadilla as he is separated from his family during the battles and hides out in the jungle and then tries to find them. *Rafael Mafnas' Story*, which was written and directed by students Angelo Manese and Justin Ocampo, tells of Mafnas' efforts to escape crossfire between American and Japanese soldiers by hiding in a cave with his friend.

The special one-night encore screening of *We Drank Our Tears* will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 17, at the Regal Saipan Megaplex. Doors will open at 6:30pm and the screening will start at 7pm. Tickets are $10 and are available at Mount Carmel School. For more information, email galvin.deleonguerrero@gmail.com. ***(PR)***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IN CASE AGAINST MAN CONVICTED IN 2ND BIGGEST 'ICE' HAUL IN CNMI

Docs showing suspect admitting not seeing agents seize belongings ordered

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered the U.S. government to provide the court with a document that the prosecution alleges as evidence that a man convicted over a large methamphetamine or "ice" shipment admitted he did not see the Drug Enforcement Administration agents seize his belongings.

In an order last Thursday, Manglona gave the U.S. government until Thursday, Oct. 18, to submit the document as a supplement to its pending motion summary judgment in connection with Xi Huang's request.

Huang has been seeking the court's help for the return of his suitcase and personal items that were allegedly seized by DEA agents from his hotel room on Saipan.

Manglona said if the U.S. government intends to rely on Huang's discovery response in support of its motion for second motion for summary judgment, it must provide that document to the court.

Manglona said in its second motion for summary judgment filed last Sept. 14, the U.S. government referred the court to Huang's response to the U.S. government's request for answers to admissions.

Last June, Manglona said she will hold an evidentiary hearing pertaining to Huang's request.

In the same June order, Manglona issued a ruling favorable to the U.S. government over the seizure of Huang's $1,130 cash in the same search in his hotel room in 2015.

Manglona said because Huang did not file a claim before the $1,130 was forfeited, he is not entitled to challenge the basis of the forfeiture in these proceedings.

In his motion to return, Huang asserted that the U.S. government must return $1,130 cash, a suitcase with personal clothing, and wallet that were taken from his hotel room at the time he was arrested on Dec. 4, 2015.

Subsequently, the U.S. government filed a motion for summary judgment, contending that it never seized the suitcase, wallet or clothing, and that the $1,130 was forfeited.

Huang said federal agents took his 1,130,600 yuan, Gucci travel bag, two cell phones, cell phone charger, banner shoes, khaki pants and shirts, Gucci wallet, and hair trimmer.

One cell phone has already been returned to Huang.

Meanwhile, in Huang's recent response to the U.S. government's second motion for summary judgment, he said the U.S. government cited a litany of cases in support of its argument that "sovereign immunity bars award of money damages against motion to recover property seized by federal agents where property could not be returned."

At the same time, Huang said, the U.S. government admitted to seizing some—but not all—of his personal property."

However, the defendant said, the U.S. government failed to produce any evidence as to what it did with the remaining personal items belonging to him.

He said the very premise of the court's order issued on June 11, 2018, was that the U.S. government has failed to produce any evidence as to what it did with his other personal items contained in his luggage that were not forfeited or destroyed.

He said no single evidence was produced by the government, nor any reasonable explanation shown by the arresting officers what they did with other remaining personal items contained in his luggage.

Thus, Huang asserted, the U.S. government's sovereign immunity argument does not bar from producing evidence showing what its agents did with personal items belonging to a defendant in a DEA custody.

Interestingly, he said, the U.S. government attempts to persuade the court that since he was in DEA's custody when his hotel room was search, he could not have seen the DEA seize the items he alleged were taken from his hotel room.

Huang said the issue is not whether the personal items were destroyed or forfeited, but what the DEA agents did with those remaining personal items that was shown in the discovery.

Huang is currently serving 15 years and eight months of imprisonment in federal prison over the shipment of methamphetamine or "ice" then worth $850,000.

Huang pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. He was sentenced in August 2016.

A routine Customs inspection at the Port of Saipan of a 40-foot container from China resulted in the discovery of the 4.9 lbs. of "ice" hidden in three plastic bags in one of the nine 5-gallon paint containers on Dec. 2, 2015.

Joint federal and local enforcers investigated the shipment, resulting in the arrest of Huang and two co-defendants.

Bill to fix San Jose drainage system to be introduced

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Ways and Means Committee has introduced a local legislation that would provide funding for several infrastructure projects for Precinct 3.

The SNILD will have a session on Friday, Oct. 19, at 10am on Capital Hill.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), SNILD Ways and Means chair, will introduce House Local Bill 20-81 with minority leader Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Precinct 3 legislators, and other members of the delegation helping craft the legislation.

H.L.B. 20-81 would appropriate $9,500,000 for various projects in the Third Senatorial District. The funds are from the exclusive gaming annual license fees.

Precinct 3 will be appropriated $1,035,000 where $208,500 will be used to fix the drainage system of the roads near the San Jose Church.

Another $105,000 will be allocated to complete the Mt. Tapochau water line, while $96,500 is reserved for the paving and beautification easement in front of Puerto Rico Twins and North Marina Heights. Other projects will be named in the $625,000 balance. ***(Jon Perez)***

BAIL

From Page 1

ernment official ordering the government official to do his or her duty or correct an abuse of discretion.

According to the motion filed by the defendants through their counsels, because there are no pending charges remaining in their criminal proceeding, the bond and conditions of their release serve no purpose.

Deleon Guerrero is requesting, through his lawyer, Matthew Holley, for the court to release his property held on bond with the NMI Superior court.

Concepcion is requesting, through Charity Hodson, for the court to execute a release of the property held on bond with the NMI Superior court.

Both Deleon Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion are requesting that the court absolve all bail conditions like the condition to stay away from all seaport and airports, return his travel documents, not leave the island of Saipan, have no direct or indirect contact with a minor, be permitted to work from Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm, and others.

In 2016, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho issued separate orders that dismissed without prejudice the charges against Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion.

Camacho found no probable cause as to the charge of conspiracy to commit sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, that the government produced no evidence that Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion conspired to have sex with a minor.

Camacho also found no probable cause for the two counts of misconduct in public office, as the government presented no evidence that the alleged offense occurred.

Camacho also dismissed without prejudice the charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree filed against Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion. The judge said the government failed to prove essential element of the crime.

The government filed a petition for a writ of mandamus before the high court on Oct. 11, 2018, that was denied on Oct. 12, 2018.

VISITORS

From Page 1

returning markets like Japan."

HANMI reported last week an 81.24 percent average occupancy rate among its hotel members in September 2018—a 10-percent decrease in occupancy rate during the same month last year.

HANMI also disclosed that, while occupancy is down, average room rate is at $146.96, the highest ever September average room rate that the association has recorded. The average room rate in September 2017 was $135.52.

HANMI said that September marked the first month that the now closed Mariana Resort & Spa was not included among the hotels that were counted, indicating a loss of 124 hotel rooms.

Concepcion said there is a decrease in hotel occupancy levels because there's a slight drop in tourist arrivals.

MVA will be releasing its September arrivals report this week that provides further details.

On room rates, the MVA managing director said they are the highest ever because HANMI, the MVA, and their industry partners have managed to increase demand from higher end visitors who are willing to pay a higher rate per room night.

Concepcion said with the closing of Mariana Resort they are naturally concerned about its future as a premier hotel in the CNMI, the loss in hotel occupancy tax and other taxes paid to the CNMI government, and the maintenance of the sprawling property itself.

"We are confident our partners at the Department of Public Lands are on top of things and look forward to a resolution soon," he added.

RED CROSS

From Page 1

chapter here, which was really the spark that lit the fire. Once we had an office, we had a place for the volunteers to come and things started to roll from there," he said.

Hirsch said that if it wasn't for Tenorio's vision, the chapter would not have become as successful as it has become over the years.

"We are just incredibly grateful for his vision and be able to pause and say 'hey, these things are really important, we need to make an investment' and that's what he did. He made an investment at that time, financially, through the government, to make our chapter what it is today," he said.

Hirsh added it was because of Tenorio's dedication to organizations like the American Red Cross that he was beloved by his constituents and made history as the only CNMI governor to serve three terms.

"He, as we all know, was a three-time governor…so he was beloved by our community. The community really loved him, his family, and he was very engaged in a lot of social services and organizations like the Red Cross," he said during the 29th Annual Club 200 fundraising event last Saturday.

Tenorio's widow, Sophia, accepted the award on his behalf.

"I am very thankful to the American Red Cross for recognizing my husband…He always put his time into the Red Cross…even though he always had a very busy schedule…he loved this organization," she said.

The chapter also recognized Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for his partnership and collaboration during Typhoon Mangkhut.

The chapter also recognized volunteer Maryann Taman for her years of service to the American Red Cross.

The chapter's Disaster Action Team that consists of volunteers who are on call and ready to respond to house fire calls and flood calls were also given an honorable mention during the event.

SUSPECT

From Page 1

to Jan 11.

The original sentencing date is Sept. 7, 2018.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe moved to file a motion under seal because it discusses previously sealed information. Manglona granted the request yesterday.

Last May, Sablan, 38, pleaded guilty to the indictment charging him with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. The offense carries a maximum penalty of not more than a 20-year imprisonment, a fine not to exceed $1 million, supervised release, restitution, and a $100 special penalty assessment.

Janet H. King is the court-appointed counsel for Sablan.

In his admissions, Sablan said that, last March 15, he agreed with at least one other person to manufacture methamphetamine.

Sablan said he obtained items such as lye, lighter fluid, plastic bottles, and tubing at the behest of another person.

The defendant agreed to make methamphetamine for another person by the "shake and bake" method outside Best Poker in Garapan last March 15.

He said as part of their plan, he was supposed to receive some of the "ice" that was produced for his personal consumption and that another person would get the rest to sell to other people.

Sablan admitted that he purchased pseudoephedrine at local pharmacies last Jan. 13 and Jan. 15 twice, and last Jan. 22, for the purpose of making methamphetamine.

Sablan reportedly threw a backpack and a bag that contained chemicals and items used in making "ice" during a police chase in Garapan last March 15. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Kilili creates insular area Medicaid working group

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has taken the lead to form a congressional working group to address the end of supplemental Medicaid funding for the insular areas in September 2019.

The supplemental funding—$109 million for the Marianas—was included in the 2010 Healthcare and Education Reconciliation Act, P.L. 111-152, or Obamacare. The money kept the Commonwealth Health Center open after the Fitial administration cut the hospital out of the government budget and is now almost entirely spent.

"As I did to extend the Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker program for 10 years in the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, I am forming a staff working group to come up with proposals to deal with the 'Medicaid cliff' that the insular areas all face," Sablan said. "Replacing that funding for our hospital—about $15 million per year—is undoubtedly my top priority in the next Congress.

"If re-elected, I will be the only insular area member of Congress who was in office when the supplemental Medicaid funding was included in Obamacare. In fact, I was in the White House meeting with the President that changed his mind and got us the money.

"So, I know the history, what arguments were persuasive then, what arguments failed. That institutional knowledge should be helpful in solving this looming crisis," Sablan said.

Like CW working group—but harder

In some ways, Sablan's CW working group was simpler than the Medicaid working group will be, because only the Marianas was involved. With Medicaid, all five insular areas are affected. All face the end of supplemental Medicaid funding, but each of the jurisdictions has different constraints and capabilities in delivering healthcare. That makes a resolution more complicated than the CW extension.

"The working group has already met with Senate and House committees with jurisdiction over Medicaid," Sablan said. "So, the issue is on the radar for the 116th U.S. Congress beginning in January.

"I have also included legislative language in the Health Equity and Accountability Act, H.R. 5492, that would solve the 'cliff' problem by treating all the insular areas like states for purposes of Medicaid. This bill has the support of 67 members so far and is likely to be a starting point for healthcare legislation in a Democratic-majority House next year."

In addition to the supplemental Medicaid funds, the Marianas also receives a base grant each year. Obamacare increased that base grant, too, which for fiscal year 2019 is $6.7 million. Another positive change: Obamacare reduced the local match required for Medicaid by 10 percent.

'Medicaid funding affects all'

Sablan said the Marianas congressional office has also discussed the Medicaid cliff problem with Trump administration officials. "The problem is that the Trump administration wants to turn Medicaid nationally into a block grant with a fixed amount of funding for each state, which is what the insular areas have. While the insular areas want to get out of block grants and be treated like states with more or less unlimited funding to meet need."

Medicaid is the nation's largest healthcare program, covering some 74 million people. In the Marianas about 15,000 are eligible for coverage from Medicaid.

"It is important to remember that Medicaid is not just for the poor," Sablan said. "Medicaid accounts for 28 percent of our hospital's revenues. Without Medicaid, CEO Esther Muña has told me, the hospital would close.

"And if the hospital closes, not just the patients on Medicaid are hurt. We all are in trouble." ***(PR)***

Freedom Walk tomorrow

The Field of Heroes Freedom Walk, which is meant to remember those who laid down their lives during the 9/11 disaster back in 2001, would start at 5pm tomorrow on Saipan.

The walk would start from the Garapan Fishing Base up to the venue site at the American Memorial Park.

The Department of Fire and Emergence Medical Services would provide a water cannon salute to walk participants, according to TanHoldings vice president for Corporate Affairs Cathy Attao-Toves. TanHoldings Corp. and its charitable arm, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, is hosting the annual event.

Attao-Toves said that a little over 300 flags have garnered sponsors.

At the AMP, the CNMI National Anthem would be played by the Music of the Marianas Association, followed by the invocation and welcome greetings by National Park Service superintendent Barbara Alberti.

TanHoldings president Jerry Tan would speak, followed by a guest speaker, whom Toves has yet to disclose as of publication.

A wreath dedication followed by a moment of silence will be followed by a 30-second-long siren of all emergency vehicles in the CNMI. A 21-gun salute, followed by a performance by Sam Sosa would then follow.

The entire event is open to the public.

Proceeds from the event would be funneled toward the Northern Marianas Humanities Council to support their efforts to help those with post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Japanese bereaved families remembered

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Families of Japanese military men during World War II gathered yesterday to remember their fallen at the Okinawa Peace Memorial in Marpi.

A second group also held the same ceremony over the weekend on Tinian.

The two islands, according to Japanese Consul Kinji Shinoda, played significant roles during the six-year war, also known as the deadliest conflict in human history. Japanese civilian and military casualties are estimated to have amounted to about 3 million.

"Many [members of the Japan War Bereaved Families Association] are the sons, daughters, and even grandchildren [of the soldiers]," Shinoda.

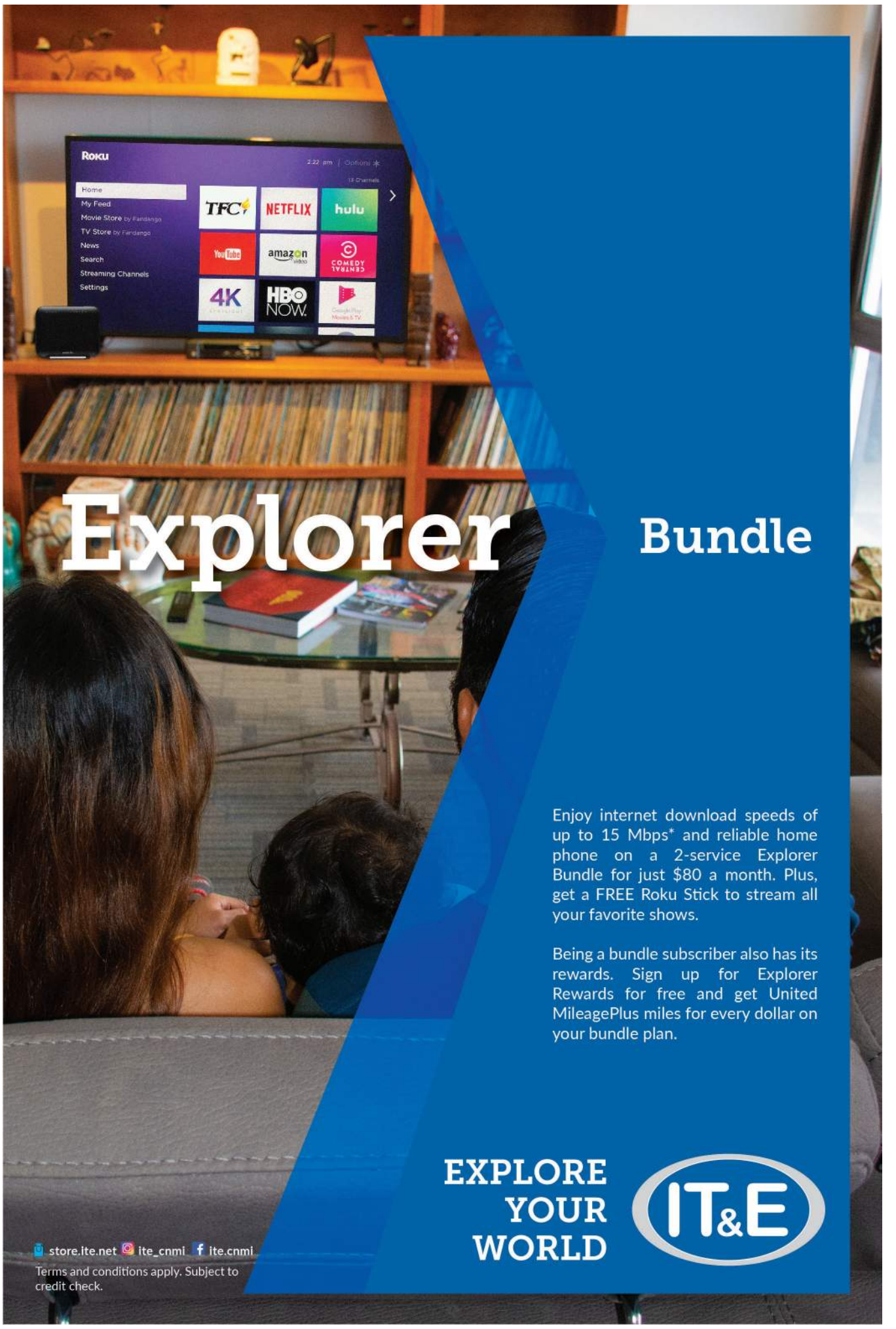
He noted that the association reaches out every year to those interested in attending the annual ceremony.

"Not many people understand. This kind of memorial service is important. Too many Japanese people lost their lives on Saipan and Tinian, but the younger generation do not know much about that," he said.

The delegation on Saipan, led by Tahara Masanobu, noted in a roughly translated speech that Japan is grateful to their fallen soldiers during the war because the country now enjoys peaceful times. He asked that the spirits of the soldiers to continue to protect and guide those that live today in order to maintain peace in Japan.

The Marianas Visitors Authority provided logistical support to the association.

"We offer our sincere condolences to those who lost loved ones in the war and will continue to pray for peace. Memorial groups have always been stable and reliable visitors to the CNMI for decades, and we will continue to support them as they make their journey to the CNMI year after year," said MVA managing director Chris Concepcion.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Passport Office passes State Department inspection

U.S. Passport Office manager Maggie Naputi was notified last week by the Honolulu Passport Office about the CNMI's excellent performance on the Acceptance Facility Oversight Inspection Report performed by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs earlier this year.

Naputi stated that the U.S. Department of State inspects all states and territories for compliance and legitimate and confidential processing.

"We've maintained our performance for many years, and we are all certified and must undergo yearly training through the Honolulu Office to maintain these standards. We are very pleased with another successful inspection. As a team of five personnel, we make sure all forms and related documents are visible to customers while staying up to date with the latest U.S. Passport standards and fees," Naputi said.

Since the implementation of federal immigration, the Saipan Passport office performs quarterly service and outreach to the island of Tinian and Rota to meet the needs of all U.S. citizens.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said the CNMI branch continues to successfully maintain the standards set by the U.S. Department of State, noting that U.S. Passport fees become general revenue for the Commonwealth.

"I commend Maggie and her team for another job well done. Successfully passing facility inspecting and training ensures that we can continue to generate revenue for the CNMI and assist our fellow citizens with matters relating to consular services," Larson said.

According to Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, since the federal takeover of immigration services, the U.S. Passport Office has still maintained its compliance and efficiency.

"Although our passport office is a small operation, I am pleased that the U.S. Department of State has recognized our Passport Office team's diligence and that everything is compliant. Immigration is a very complex issue, and we are grateful that consular services for U.S. citizens continue to go smoothly," Torres said.

The public is encouraged to visit the Saipan U.S. Passport acceptance facility regarding any questions about first-time applicants or renewals at the Ascension Drive Building 1321 on Capital Hill or to call 664-4760.

The Department of State is responsible for issuing U.S. passports to traveling U.S. citizens, protecting the integrity of the U.S. passport as proof of U.S. citizenship at home and around the world. For more information, log on to -travel.state.gov. ***(PR)***

Passport Office manager Maggie Naputi and acceptance agents pose in front of their acceptance facility on Capital Hill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ON OWNERSHIP OF $290K DEPOSITED IN COURT INVOLVING JUDGE'S WIFE

Brother doesn't want to be dragged into defamation suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former owner of a security agency is asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division to deny a motion to lift the automatic stay on his and his wife's bankruptcy petition in order to allow Bank of Hawaii to proceed with its third-party claim against him in connection with his sister's defamation lawsuit against the bank.

Joaquin V. Deleon Guerrero, through counsel Timothy H. Bellas, asserted that there is prejudice to both him and the estate of his late father, former governor Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero, in this defamation case by lifting the stay on his (Joaquin's) bankruptcy case.

Bellas said Joaquin would be required to incur the additional expense of litigating a suit that involves an asset to which he does not have a personal interest in.

Joaquin is the brother of Frances DLG Naraja, who is suing BOH for allegedly refusing to honor the eight cashier's checks in the total amount of $290,000 that she claimed to have purchased in 2016, but then telling all the other banks on Saipan that she had improperly secured the cashier's checks.

Frances Naraja is the wife of Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja.

Mrs. Naraja asked the Superior Court to order for the return of $290,000, represented by the cashier's checks, with prejudgment interest from the date of their dishonor. She also sought damages.

She filed the lawsuit in the local court last July 13. But last Aug. 17, BOH, through counsel Sean Frink, sought to move the lawsuit to the district court.

BOH recently filed an answer to the complaint. The bank also filed a counterclaim against Mrs. Naraja and third-party claims against Gloria DLG. Sablan, Commonwealth Development Authority, and the Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero Family Trust.

Sablan is Mrs. Naraja's sister.

Frink moved the court to require Mrs. Naraja and Mrs. Sablan to reimburse BOH for its costs in analyzing and defending itself against the lawsuit.

According to Frink in the counterclaims and third-party claims, BOH simply seeks to join all of the potentially interested parties in one action so that their respective rights and responsibilities as to the $290,000 can be determined.

Frink said because Mrs. Naraja's brother, Joaquin, has declared bankruptcy, however, he cannot be joined as a third-party defendant in this action without the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.

Frink said BOH has filed a motion to lift the stay in the bankruptcy action so that it can sue Joaquin Deleon Guerrero in this action and intends to join him as an additional third-party defendant once it obtains the approval.

The lawyer said Mrs. Naraja has sued BOH, claiming the entire $290,000 that was at one time in the savings account at the BOH that she jointly held with her sister, Gloria Sablan, and her brother, Joaquin Deleon Guerrero, and that was used to pay for the cashier's checks in question.

Frink said Joaquin and his wife declared bankruptcy, claiming that the true owner of the $290,000 is and was the Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero Family Trust.

In its lawsuit, CDA was pursuing his (Joaquin) assets in order to enforce a $400,000-plus judgment.

CDA successfully caused the Superior Court to issue writs that directed that the $290,000 be deposited with the Superior Court.

Frink said the $290,000 has been on deposit with the Superior Court since Jan. 12, 2017, where as best as BOH can tell, no one has since laid claim to it.

In BOH's motion for relief filed last month before the Bankruptcy Division, Frink said first, although Joaquin will be named a party in the Mrs. Naraja lawsuit, there will be no impact to the bankruptcy estate resulting in that lawsuit for Joaquin's creditors.

That is because, Frink said, the court in the Naraja lawsuit could ultimately find one of two ways as to Joaquin—either he had an interest in all or some of the $290,000, or he did not.

Frink said if he had an interest in those funds, that interest could benefit the bankruptcy estate and be used to pay some of Joaquin's creditors.

Frink said if Joaquin did not have any interest in the $290,000, then there will be no adverse effect on the bankruptcy estate.

Frink added, among other things, that the Bankruptcy Court's lifting of the automatic stay serves the interests of judicial economy.

In Joaquin's response last week to BOH's motion for automatic stay, Bellas said contrary to Joaquin's position, the Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero estate, through the case trustee, has hired counsel to possibly take the position that it may have a claim to a portion of these funds because they do belong to Joaquin.

Therefore, Bellas said, the estate has an interest in defending and therefore will be prejudiced by incurring the additional expenses to litigate such an action.

Bellas said lifting the stay and allowing BOH to litigate the issue of Joaquin's interest in the funds in question would interfere with the function of the case trustee who is also undertaking to determine what if any interest Joaquin has in these funds.

Walk & Roll set tomorrow

The public is invited to join in the Walk & Roll Against Domestic Violence tomorrow, Oct. 17, 2018 in Upper MIHA.

Registration will start at 5pm at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s parking lot with the walk starting at 5:30pm. The first 100 individuals to register will also receive a free T-shirt.

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, with the Family Violence Task Force, also encourage Walk & Roll participants to create signs or banners to help spread awareness of domestic violence and/or to show support for victims and survivors.

October is nationally and locally recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, with this year's theme for the CNMI being "Support. Encourage. Empower."

Additional DVAM events are scheduled throughout October including the Day of Unity on Saturday, Oct. 20 and Purple Thursday on Thursday, Oct. 25, 2018. The CNMI's Purple Thursday event will include the annual Men's Walk & Roll Against Domestic Violence and the Candlelight Vigil for Domestic Violence Victims.

For more information, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878, or email info@endviolencenmi.org, and visit www-.facebook.com/endviolencenmi. Also, if you or someone who you know is experiencing violence or abuse, call 911 for emergency assistance or call the 24 hour and confidential Victim Hotline at (670) 234-5100. ***(PR)***

JRM to participate in Great Guam ShakeOut, tsunami drills

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas and U.S. Naval Base Guam will participate in the Great Guam ShakeOut and a tsunami drill on Oct. 18.

JRM and NBG in conjunction with Guam Homeland Security will take part in the world's largest earthquake drill at 10:18am. During the drill, personnel will practice the stop, cover and hold-on procedure for one minute wherever they are located.

During the tsunami drill, waterfront units and activities at NBG will evacuate to designated tsunami assembly areas using designated routes. Participating units will also be directed to report accountability via computer or mobile device to the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System website at https://navyfamily-.navy.mil.

The drills provide an opportunity for NBG emergency management to exercise its operational lines of communication, review response procedures, and promote preparedness. Regular exercising of response plans to high impact events is critical to remain ready for an emergency.

There are currently no planned road closures and the force protection condition (FPCON) status will not change throughout the duration of the drills, which will be held concurrently.

As part of the exercise, the NBG Giant Voice system will be activated, and residents in surrounding areas of the GV speakers will hear exercise announcements throughout the day. ***(PR)***

Next Top Chef competition on Nov. 28

The Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will host the 2018 CNMI Next Top Chef competition on Nov. 28, 2018, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The CNMI Next Top Chef aims to again feature 12 chef teams in a *Chopped*-style competition live on-stage, with all proceeds to benefit the non-profit Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation. The competition will include three rounds: appetizers, main entrée, and dessert.

Individuals who support Empty Vessel by purchasing a ticket to CNMI Next Top Chef will be able to attend the live competition, enjoy a full buffet dinner from the kitchen of Fiesta Resort & Spa, and participate in a raffle draw.

Tickets are $60 per person and now on sale through Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation.

"I would like to thank HANMI for leading this important event every year and for the whole CNMI community for their support," said EVM director Ana McMahon. "We continue to ask for your support and we are looking forward for an exciting competition this year."

Registration will be announced shortly for interested chefs, cooks, and interested community members. Entry will be $50 and will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Corporations and individuals interested in donating to the event may contact EVM at 235-2340 or 783-8290 or emptyvesselministries@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the 2018 CNMI Next Top Chef organizing committee meet at Fiesta Resort & Spa on Oct. 3, 2018, to plan for the Nov. 28 fundraising event. Proceeds of the event will benefit the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMPASI closed on Oct. 17

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. will be closed on Oct. 17, 2018, from 8am to 5pm, for professional development. Normal business hours will resume on Oct. 18, 2018. ***(PR)***

MyPros hosts candidates' forum

The Marianas Young Professionals, in cooperation with the Northern Marianas College and Public School System, will host a series of political candidate forums in Saipan public schools. The public is welcome to attend this free event.

The first candidate forum will feature Board of Education candidates and will take place today, Oct. 16, at Kagman Elementary School, starting at 5:30pm.

The second candidate forum will take place on Thursday, Oct. 18, at Kagman Elementary School and will feature lieutenant governor candidates. Doors open at 5:30pm.

This year, questions will be provided by members of Million Dollar Scholars high school clubs, as well as from higher education students both on and off island. MyPros will invite young professional membership, working in government and private businesses around island, to submit questions as well.

"We will broadcast the forums on social media to reach a larger viewing audience but we are hosting these forums at public schools so that more people can attend in person. Our goal is to inform our membership, and the public, by providing an equitable platform to discuss important ideas," said MyPros executive director Gerard van Gils.

Founded in 2015, MYPros is an independent non-profit organization that aims to create pathways for students and young professionals to realize their potential as community leaders of the CNMI. ***(PR)***

Library closed on Saturday, Oct. 27

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed on Saturday, Oct. 27, in lieu of the 4th Annual Friends of the Library Golf Tournament. If interested in participating in the tournament or for more information, call the library at 235-READ. ***(PR)***

CHamoru commission meeting reset

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) has postponed its monthly meeting to Oct. 18, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3pm, at the former Guam Museum building or the Garden House in Hagåtña.

Work sessions will also be held on Thursday, Oct. 25, 12:30pm to 3pm at the same venue. ***(PR)***

Military training at FDM, W-517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Oct. 16-18, from 11am to 10pm
- Oct. 19, from 10am. to 10pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

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NOW $28,399*

2017 Tacoma SR
DC, SB, Pre-Runner, 4-cyl, 2.7-liter, Auto, 2WD, Red, Mileage 11,369, STK#R18-033F
NOW $28,699*

2016 Tacoma DC
TRD, V6, 3.5-liter, Auto, 4WD, Black, STK#U18-099T
NOW $32,499*

2016 Highlander LTD SUV
V6, 3.5-liter, Auto, 2WD, Silver, STK#U18-095R
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‘Live Your Dream’ award now on its 5th year

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

The Soroptimist International Club NMI Chapter is on its 5th year of running the Live Your Dream Award in the NMI. This is open to all women who are considered head of their families and are enrolled in secondary school.

A cash prize of $3,000 will be awarded that will help the recipient improve her education, skills and employment prospects.

According to Soroptimist NMI Chapter Way and Means chair Pam Brown, who also co-chairs this year’s Live Your Dream Award, 14 women have submitted their applications and their stories are now being reviewed.

“The turnout this year is bigger than last year,” she said.

There were nine applications for the award program in 2017 and 14 for this year.

Brown attributes this to the club’s work with the Northern Marianas College and Northern Marianas Trade Institute. “We send out the information to their Student Affairs Office and they send out an email blast to the women students with all the information,” she said.

To qualify, women applicants must be the head of the family and is currently enrolled in a secondary school.

BEA CABRERA
The 2018 Live Your Dream entries were reviewed by volunteer judges under the supervision of Soroptimist members last Saturday. From left: Soroptimist president Maureen Sebangiol, Sue Satur of CNMI Center for Living Independently, Live Your Dream 2016 awardee Rachel Ashley Reyes, Laurie Ogumorro of Karidat Social Services, Maisie Tenorio of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and 2018 Live Your Dream, chair Marilyn Marron.

Brown said the applicants does not need to be a U.S. citizen to join. Women who are enrolled in an online school are also qualified.

There is no age requirement “because we want to open the opportunity to many women,” Brown added.

The award prize of $3,000 will go to the recipient to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare, tuition, and transportation.

“The award comes with absolutely no strings attached so they can spend it on anything that they need to spend it on to make their lives better. We always give out at least $3,000 and if we have more money we can give out more,” Brown said.

“What is really nice is, internationally, we give out hundreds of millions of dollars so it’s such a big impact that we totally support the idea that when you educate a woman, you change the community. The education of women and girls is our main focus,” she added.

Last Saturday, the applications were reviewed by the judges composed of Laurie Ogumorro of Karidat Social Services, Sue Satur of the CNMI Center for Living Independently, Maisie Tenorio of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and 2016 Live Your Dream awardee, Rachel Ashley Reyes.

“We are lucky to have this roster of judges who run nonprofit organizations to help us this year. Another special thing is one of the judges, Reyes, was a prior recipient of the award and she will be joining the club too,” Brown said.

“There are a lot of memorable stories that the women who joined this year shared with us. It’s really hard because they all bright young women, all of them are professional, that’s why we have judges that are not members of the club so that they can be impartial,” Brown added.

Brown said that Soroptimist NMI Chapter believes in second chances, that’s why they accommodate repeat applications as long as the women meet the requirements.

“We accommodate repeaters and we actually have one applicant from last year and she is applying again. I think any working mother or woman will always have a reason for more money, especially if you’re the head of a family or still a student,” she added.

The Live Your Dream Gala where the winning entry shall be announced will be on Oct. 20, Saturday, at 5:30pm at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan. Tickets sell at $50 inclusive of food, wine or beer. A ticket helps the Soroptomist NMI Chapter build the funds for next year’s award. For more information, call (670) 234-9480.

Friends of the Library gets Triple J donation

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Friends of the Library, the charitable arm of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, was able to secure a monetary donation from Triple J over the weekend.

JKPL technical services librarian Beth Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* that Triple J donated about $2,500, and the money will go to the 4th Annual JKPL Golf Tournament, slated for Oct. 27, 2018.

According to Demapan, the golf event raises money to fund the library’s events all year long. Last year, the event was able to raise $10,000, which went to programs and events of the library and its branches on Rota and Tinian.

“We want to thank sponsors last year who helped… almost 1,500 children read in our main library this summer,” she said.

The library’s events include the Collaborative Summer Library Program, which runs from June to August, and is currently the library’s most popular activity annually. It reportedly averages 75 to 100 kids a day, and was able to serve 74,166 patrons and 588 class visits altogether over the last year.

With weekly visits to various remote communities throughout Saipan, the JKPL Bookmobile Outreach Literacy Services served 57,677 patrons, with 4,811 library card applications entertained, 552 library cards issued, 6,631 laptop uses, and 1,644 internet sessions.

Show time for the golf tournament is at 6:30am, while tee time starts an hour later at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort’s west courses. The first place winner pockets $400, second place gets $350, third gets $300, fourth gets $250, and fifth gets $200.

Hole-in-one prizes include $5,000, while the longest drive for Hole 10 gets $150. The most accurate drive for Hole 9 is awarded $150.

Pixley withdraws as counsel for Manila

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Thursday last week the request of Steven P. Pixley to withdraw as counsel for Reynaldo A. Manila, who has been in prison now for 17 years and is suing some Department of Corrections’ officials and officers.

Manglona granted the motion after hearing Pixley’s explanation and without objections from the Office of the Attorney General, which is the counsel for DOC officials and officers.

Government lawyers Christopher Timmons and Hessel Yntema told court they had no position for or against the motion, according to the minutes of the hearing.

In his motion, Pixley said he is unable to proceed with representing Manila based upon his review of documents, discussions with Manila, meetings with defense counsel, and legal research.

Manglona told Manila that he may still proceed without a lawyer.

Manglona gave Manila until Oct. 24 to respond or to file his opposition.

Manila moved for another attorney, but Manglona denied his motion and noted that she had already decided on this matter.

The judge told Manila that the matter will be decided on the briefs, and if there is anything else needed, the court will indicate it in a written order and he will be informed.

Manila claimed that he may be losing his vision due to the negligence of DOC. He filed an amended complaint naming as defendants former DOC commissioner Georgia M. Cabrera, former DOC commissioner Robert Guerrero, and former acting DOC commissioner Jose K. Pangelinan.

Manila filed the amended complaint following Manglona’s order that found his complaint not frivolous.

Manila has sought help from the District Court after his eye surgery at the Commonwealth Health Center in September 2017 was allegedly unsuccessful and that he is worried he is losing his vision.

Manila, now 56 years old, has been serving 17 years of a 60-year prison term. He was sentenced in June 2002 to 60 years in prison for second-degree murder over the death of his 6-month-old goddaughter.

A jury found Manila guilty of second-degree murder and child abuse.

Manila insists he did not kill the child. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

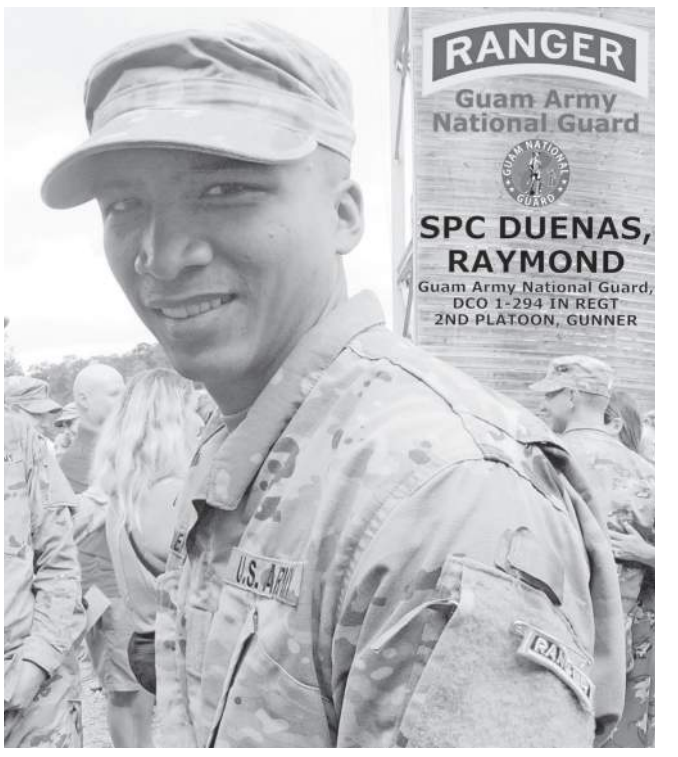
Duenas completes army ranger school

SPC Raymond Duenas, a soldier from the Guam Army National Guard’s 1st-294th Infantry Regiment’s Delta Company, completed U.S. Army Ranger School, Class 09-18, at Fort Benning, Georgia, on Friday, Sept.28, 2018.

The U.S. Army’s ranger school is a 61-day combat leadership course oriented toward small-unit tactics. It is open to soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines in the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as select allied military students.

The first four days of ranger school are commonly referred to as the ranger assessment phase, or RAP Week. The majority of attrition happens during RAP. In addition, about 45 percent of all students who start ranger school fail to graduate. Another 33 percent of all ranger school graduates are recycled, at least once, for failure to meet the standard. They either lack the knowledge, or basic infantry skills that are required in ranger school. Not all ranger students are allowed to recycle, nor do all ranger students who complete ranger school, graduate and earn the coveted black-and-yellow tab.

Prior to attending the U.S. Army ranger school, Duenas completed the 16-day ranger training assessment course, a National Guard requirement prior to attending ranger school. This course is conducted at the Army National Guard Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning, Georgia, to prepare ranger students for the rigorous and intense training at the U.S. Army ranger school. Successfully completing RTAC increases the ranger students’ ability to pass and successfully complete ranger school. ***(PR)***



GUAM NATIONAL GUARD
SPC Raymond Duenas, from the Guam Army National Guard’s 1st-294th Infantry Regiment’s Delta Company, completed U.S. Army Ranger School, Class 09-18, at Fort Benning, Georgia, on Friday, Sept. 28, 2018.

Bank of Guam employees donate to Yap cultural museum

COLONIA, Yap—The Yap Living History Museum in the heart of Colonia, the island's center of commerce and government, has received a generous donation from a group of Bank of Guam employees.

Jamie P. Gilmar, Bank of Guam operations manager in Yap, presented the check to Yap Living History Museum board chair Don Evans and YVB project development manager Tom Tamangmow in front of the museum's traditional buildings at the outdoor site.

"A group of Bank of Guam employees teamed up with the purpose of helping the communities they live and work in," said Gilmar. "The group consists of FAMILIA from every branch and department in the Bank of Guam network. In 2015, they participated in a leadership training that brought them closer to each other professionally and personally, and they wanted to keep the momentum going by choosing a non-profit in every island, atoll and city where the bank does business for a donation. All funds were raised internally among Bank of Guam employees."

"We are very grateful to this community-minded group from the Bank of Guam for their support of this important cultural site," said Evans. "It will go toward upkeep of these beautiful grounds and other maintenance expenses."

The museum, in association with the Yap Visitors Bureau, is currently working on the installation of lighting for evening events, and the development of a booklet that will serve as a visitor's guide.

Jamie P. Gilmar, right, Bank of Guam operations manager in Yap, Don Evans, center, chairman of the Board, Yap Living History Museum, Tom Tamangmow, left, YVB project development manager, in front of the museum's traditional buildings.
JOYCE MCCLURE

"We are also nearing construction of a climate-controlled building that will begin later this year and provide additional space for displays of artifacts, historic photos and other materials that will showcase Yap's rich history and culture in a 'Folk-Victorian'-style building reminiscent of another era in Yap's past," added Evans.

Opened in December 2011, the purpose of YLHM is "to put traditional skills, values and ideals at the forefront and increase the public's knowledge of the significance of traditional culture as well as the history of Yap's islands," explained Evans. "The museum with its four traditional, hand-built houses, has become a popular location for residents of all ages to hold special events, celebrations and festivals, many that include historical re-enactments such as the Stone Money Carry, traditional dances, live arts, cooking, storytelling, canoe building and handicrafts. It's an educational arena for old traditions to be kept alive and taught to the island's youth, as well as a gathering spot for island events." ***(PR)***

Japan raises concerns over Pacific's debt to China

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Japan's foreign minister has raised concerns about the high levels of debt accrued by some Pacific Island nations and says it wants to help resolve the problem.

Foreign Minister Taro Kono made the comments Monday while visiting New Zealand, where he met with his counterpart Winston Peters.

Some observers have become alarmed at the growth in Chinese lending in the Pacific and worry that small countries such as Tonga and Vanuatu are becoming beholden to China because of their high debt levels.

Kono didn't mention China specifically in his comments.

His visit to New Zealand is the first by a Japanese foreign minister in five years. It marks a warming relationship between the two nations over the past year since Jacinda Ardern became New Zealand's prime minister.

FIELD OF HEROES SPONSORS

Hyatt Regency Saipan is a Stars & Stripes sponsor of the 2018 Field of Heroes. Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, center, and other company representatives take a moment for a photo with event organizers Catherine Attao and Carline Sablan of TanHoldings Corp., which is hosting the event together with the company's charitable arm, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. Joining Nishikawa are Yosh Gabaldon, director of finance; Danny Son, director of sales and marketing; Gabriel Columbo, executive chef and Tyrell Pauling, director of food and beverage.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tinian Mayor's Office is gearing up for the 9/11 Tribute Ceremony to take place on Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2018, at the Tinian Veterans Memorial Park at 11am. The Tinian Mayor's Office is a field sponsor for the 2018 Field of Heroes. In photo, from left, are Joseph Hocog, Tinian event coordinator; Guillermo Borja, Department of Lands and Natural Resources director; Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz; Municipal Council member Edwin M. Hofschneider; Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas; Rep. Edwin P. Aldan; Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, and Municipal Council member Antonio SN. Borja.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marpac commits to being a patron sponsor for this year's Field of Heroes. Marpac resident manager Guy Pudney, fourth from left, and consumer sales manager Tom Basa, Jr., far left, join Tan Siu Lin administrative officer Mel Naputi, TanHoldings community relations director Carline Sablan, and TanHoldings vice president for corporate affairs/human resources Catherine Attao for a check presentation at the Marpac office in Gualo Rai.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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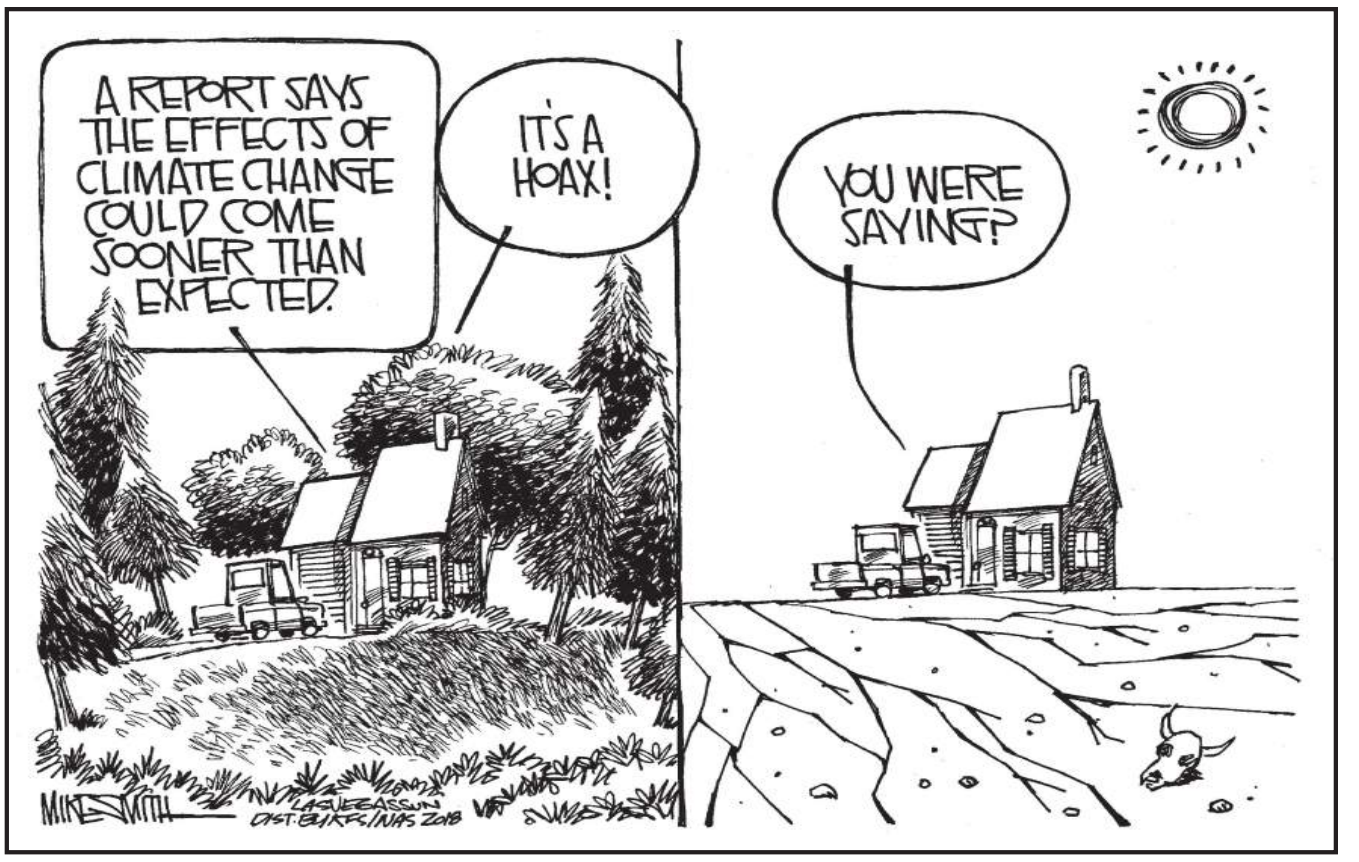

A REPORT SAYS THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE COULD COME SOONER THAN EXPECTED.
IT'S A HOAX!
YOU WERE SAYING?
MIKE SMITH
LAGUERASSUN CAST: BJKRC/NAS 2018

EDITORIAL

By TRICIA BISHOP
The Baltimore Sun

Tricia Bishop is The Baltimore Sun*'s deputy editorial page editor.*

Taylor Swift finds her (political) voice

Kudos to singer Taylor Swift for getting political this week and urging young people to vote during her "artist of the year" acceptance speech at the 2018 American Music Awards and in an earlier Instagram post. Her words are credited with prompting thousands between the ages of 18 and 24 to register online at vote.org.

While the rest of us don't have the same kind of sway as Swift—with her 112 million Instagram viewers, 84 million Twitter followers and 69 million Facebook fans—we should take a page from her playbook and hound the millennial and 18-and-up gen Z folks in our families to do the same. After all, this is their world now, and if they don't speak up, large portions of it will likely be under water by the time they reach middle age.

That's according to a sobering report released this week from a United Nations panel detailing dire results—rising sea levels, massive food shortages, coral reef die-offs—as early as 2040 if we don't do something significant about climate change now. Of course that's only terrifying for those of us who believe in science, which, as we know, doesn't include our president. When asked about the report, he expressed skepticism over the credentials of the 91 scientists, representing 40 countries, who wrote it. Or, as he said "drew it."

"It was given to me, and I want to look at who drew, you know, which group drew it," he told reporters, giving us a clue as to how information is generally presented to him: in pictures, likely color.

But back to Swift. On Instagram Sunday, the singer endorsed two Tennessee Democrats along with basic decency.

"I always have and always will cast my vote based on which candidate will protect and fight for the human rights I believe we all deserve in this country," she wrote. "I believe in the fight for LGBTQ rights, and that any form of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender is WRONG. I believe that the systemic racism we still see in this country towards people of color is terrifying, sickening and prevalent."

She followed her post up a few days later at the AMAs by pointing out that the awards there were given out based on votes by the public—as are the positions up for grabs in the midterm election Nov. 6. "Get out and vote, and I love you guys," she said.

Combined, the comments made a huge splash, both because of her popularity and her earlier reluctance to share her personal views. She famously avoided talking politics

See TAYLOR on Next Page

Ford's testimony made me reconsider Bill Clinton's accuser

By ERIC ZORN
Chicago Tribune

Christine Blasey Ford, married and in her 50s, reluctantly came forward recently to say she'd been sexually attacked by a now-famous man many years ago. She didn't remember the date of the attack, she hadn't reported it to police at the time and certain incongruous details gave rise to doubts that she was telling the truth.

She hadn't wanted to come forward, but political foes of her alleged attacker got wind of her story and dragged her into the national spotlight hoping to damage him.

Ford's account of the attack was credibly vivid and specific in key respects. Even the gaps and wrinkles in her story were the sort you'd expect in the recollection of an old trauma.

And whether you believed her or not seemed to depend a great deal on how you felt about her alleged assailant. If you opposed him politically or ideologically, odds were you believed her. If you supported him, odds were you believed his denials.

The problem for those of us who sided with Ford and those who have embraced the #MeToo movement mantra that women's accounts of sexual assault should generally be believed is that everything I wrote above also applies to Juanita Broaddrick.

In 1999, Broaddrick, married and in her 50s, reluctantly came forward to say Bill Clinton had raped her in a hotel room 20 years earlier when he was the Democratic attorney general of Arkansas and she was a volunteer in his campaign for governor.

Clinton, who'd been elected president in 1992, was then mired in the Monica Lewinsky and Paula Jones sex scandals and facing impeachment. The White House emphatically denied Broaddrick's allegation, and Democrats rallied around, dismissing her as a liar, opportunist, stooge or nutcase.

They had reasons for being skeptical, the main one being that she had recently signed an affidavit denying the rape had occurred. Another was that her spectacular accusation sounded like it was of the same vein as charges leveled by deranged haters on the right that the Clintons were international drug-runners and money-launderers who covered their tracks by ordering up the murders of aide Vince Foster and nearly three dozen others.

Such doubts kept Broaddrick's story out of prime time until two weeks after Clinton was acquitted at his impeachment trial in the Senate. After that, it felt like old, irrelevant news.

But Ford's recent, high-profile accusation that now-Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh sexually attacked her when they were both in high school has made it relevant again.

Put simply, you can't believe Ford if you don't also believe Broaddrick.

No, their stories are not identical and the parallels aren't perfect. But any objective assessment of both accusations shows that, if anything, Broaddrick's story has the louder ring of truth.

Several of Broaddrick's friends have said they remember her telling them of the rape in the days and hours afterward, and they remember her showing them the wound on her lip where, she said, Clinton had bitten her to stop her from crying out for help. Ford, in contrast, told no one what she said happened to her in the early-1980s until six years ago.

Broaddrick's reason for signing the affidavit denying that the rape occurred is consistent with the desire to avoid the spotlight and put the incident behind her that many women have described in telling stories of their own sexual attacks, and that Ford said animated her desire to remain anonymous.

"Every survivor of sexual assault deserves to be heard, believed, and supported," tweeted Hillary Clinton in November 2015.

Well, at least heard with an open mind. And in the aftermath of the Kavanaugh confirmation hearing I decided to hear Broaddrick—to read extensively about her allegations for the first time and to listen to them in a recent interview on the just-released season finale of Slate's "Slow Burn" podcast. And having heard her, I believe her.

This is not a retraction. I didn't write about Broaddrick at the time. It's a reckoning—long delayed for me and anyone else on the left side of the political spectrum who, in the name of political expediency and tribalism, brushed off the strong likelihood that the president, our guy, wasn't just a horn dog but a violent sex criminal.

Our collective failure to listen to her, to demand that Congress bring forth corroborating witnesses in a timely manner and perform a thorough investigation before Clinton's impeachment trial, was wrongheaded, cruel and ultimately immoral.

Searching for doubt and clinging to minor imperfections in her account to give ourselves permission to ignore it was obtuse and cynical.

And continuing to treat the Clintons as honored members of polite society—a news release Tuesday said Bill and Hillary will embark next month on a 13-city speaking tour to tell "stories and inspiring anecdotes that shaped their historic careers in public service"—is inexcusable.

Consistency and common decency demands an apology to Juanita Broddrick. Here's mine.

It also demands a reminder to those who have been indignantly invoking her name these past few weeks: You can't believe Broaddrick if you don't also believe Ford.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Keep #MeToo in mind when you vote this November

By ADAMA IWU
The Sacramento Bee

Adama Iwu is a co-founder and president of We Said Enough, vice president of state government relations and community outreach at Visa and a participant in The Sacramento Bee*/McClatchy Influencers series.*

Last year, revelations of rampant sexual discrimination, harassment and abuse in Hollywood shocked the nation.

Soon afterward, I along with 147 women who work in California politics wrote a letter sharing our truth: We too have experienced these same inappropriate behaviors. As other women followed suit, it became evident that these issues cut across every facet of our society. In the workplace, it seemed no industry was insulated. Women, regardless of level of experience, achievement or power, were saying #MeToo.

A year later, #MeToo is firmly entrenched as part of our cultural dialogue. Millions of victims and survivors have come forward in 2018. Many have been believed and supported. But resolution and restitution remain inconsistent, and even elusive. Far too many incidents of abuse are still being vetted in the court of public opinion, because the law and organizations have failed to provide appropriate ways to report misconduct and seek recourse.

In response to the public airing of incidents, some perpetrators have openly expressed remorse. But for others, the shame of bad deeds is short-lived – if it exists at all. Even more galling, the nation has watched alongside victims as their alleged abusers are elevated to even higher platforms, leaving victims and survivors across the country to mourn their own unresolved traumas.

After our #MeToo politics letter, many women reached out to share the stories of harassment and assault that drove them out of their industry. They had been diminished, demeaned, belittled and bullied. Many decided to take their time, talents and skills elsewhere, instead of benefiting California with their valuable contributions.

Today, we are less than four weeks away from the midterm elections. Six men and three women sit on the U.S. Supreme Court. In Congress, 80 percent of lawmakers are men. All are overwhelmingly white and roughly 20 years older than the average American they represent.

In contrast, the record numbers of women now running for office are empowering. This tide is due, in part, to the growing power and longevity of the #MeToo movement started so many years ago by Tarana Burke.

However, it is not enough that women and minorities run for office. Voters must show up to the polls and choose them, in every election and at every level.

Voting is not a one-time act, or a protest every four years. Its effects are cumulative. The people we vote for in local elections this year may one day run for state or federal office, or even president. People in San Francisco voted 22 years ago for a young Gavin Newsom for Board of Supervisors; he is now favored to be California's next governor. Sen. Dianne Feinstein was also a San Francisco supervisor; elected in 1969, she served as the board's first female president.

Since 1958, voters in Iowa have elected Sen. Chuck Grassley, who presided over the Brett Kavanaugh confirmation hearings as the Republican chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. It's unlikely that in 1996, when Illinois voters first voted for a young lawyer named Barack Obama for state Senate, they had any idea he would one day be our 44th president.

But that is the power of voting. Our elected officials don't come out of nowhere. We the people get to choose them. If you don't vote, someone somewhere else will, over and over again.

Our right as Americans to vote is radical and profound. Voting has the ability to change the trajectory of history, culture and even our local communities. Age brings wisdom, but youth brings fresh and important perspectives – and we need both to ensure a representative government.

People often ask: How do we keep the #MeToo movement going? What is the best way to fight for positive change? How do we hold elected officials accountable?

On Nov. 6 we can all do those things, together, by voting. In California you can still register to vote until Oct. 22. Vote. And while you're at it, bring a friend.

TAYLOR

From Page 10

in her younger days, saying at 18 she wouldn't reveal her political views, because music was her forte, and at 22 that she didn't want to influence the votes of others because, she said, "I don't think that I know enough yet in life."

She has spoken out on topics she's feels strongly about before, however—including sexual harassment and assault, gun violence and music streaming services that are unfair to artists. And now, on the horizon of 29, she's apparently ready to take on politics.

Swift's Instagram post has been liked more than 2 million times since Sunday, and at least four of her albums have coincidentally begun to move back up the sales charts. But some conservatives who had co-opted her for their cause—like the right-wing white supremacists who imagined her an Aryan Goddess—lost their mind over the statements.

"What I used to love about Taylor Swift is she stayed away from politics. She was all about music, all about, you know, female empowerment," Charlie Kirk, founder of the campus conservative group Turning Point USA, whined on "Fox & Friends" this week, questioning whether the mega star and highly successful businesswoman was even capable of writing the post.

"I wish you would not have done this," he added, as if she were watching. "Stay away from politics."

A few days earlier, as The Daily Beast points out, he was on the same show singing the praises of singer Kanye West, which whom Swift has famously feuded, for being a courageous, black conservative willing to support the president. "What I love about Kanye West is that he has been blazing this trial, saying it's OK to think freely," Mr. Kirk gushed.

Hmmm, so which is it, Charlie: Should all singers shut up and stick to entertainment—or just the women ones?

And is what she said really so shocking? Take away the Dem endorsements, and she simply urged others to get involved, to pay attention, to make informed decisions and to make sure their voices are heard.

"Please, please educate yourself on the candidates running in your state and vote based on who most closely represents your values," she wrote on Instagram. "For a lot of us, we may never find a candidate or party with whom we agree 100 percent on every issue, but we have to vote anyway."

We should all be able to support that.

Populist autocrats are rising around the world. Will Brazil be next?

By ANDRES OPPENHEIMER
Miami Herald

Andres Oppenheimer is a columnist for the Miami Herald. *Readers may email him at aoppenheimer@miamiherald.com.*

The sweeping victory of far-right former army captain Jair Bolsonaro in last Sunday's first-round elections in Brazil could veer Latin America's political map sharply to the right and be part of a growing worldwide trend of populist authoritarian leaders.

Bolsonaro, who admires President Donald Trump, won first-round voting Sunday with 46 percent of the vote, followed by leftist Workers' Party candidate Fernando Haddad with 29 percent and center-left hopeful Ciro Gomes with 12 percent.

Although third-place Gomes has already suggested he will vote for leftist candidate Haddad in the Oct. 28 runoff, it will be an election for Bolsonaro to lose. The right-wing candidate would have to make a huge mistake to lose the second-round vote.

While Bolsonaro resembles Trump, Russia's Vladimir Putin, the Philippines' Rodrigo Duterte, Turkey's Tayyip Erdogan, Hungary's Viktor Orban and other populists for his often outrageous views—he has repeatedly made offensive comments about women, blacks and gays—some longtime Brazil watchers say he would not likely have the power to become an autocrat.

Unlike most authoritarian leaders, Bolsonaro would not have a majority in Congress or a loyalist Supreme Court. While Bolsonaro will have the second-largest congressional bloc after the Workers' Party, it will only hold 52 seats of the lower house's 513 congressional seats.

And it would not be easy for Bolsonaro to gradually grab absolute powers. Brazil's economy is in a shambles, and populist leaders—from Erdogan to Venezuela's Hugo Chavez—have most often been able to erode democratic institutions and accumulate growing powers in times of economic bonanzas.

"He would most likely be a weak leader," says Peter Hakim, a veteran Brazil analyst with the Inter-American Dialogue think tank in Washington, D.C. "While Trump came with the Republican Party, and the Republican Party controlled Congress, Bolsonaro comes with none of that."

Despite Bolsonaro's more than two decades in Congress, he went almost unnoticed there, and he has no managerial experience. He ran his campaign mainly aided by his children, and through Facebook, Twitter and Whatsapp.

But most Brazil experts fear that Bolsonaro would become an autocrat because, among other things, Brazil does not have a long history of democratic institutions. A law-and-order candidate in a country whose population is desperate for stronger measures to curb violence could easily give rise to a populist autocrat, they say.

Only last year, almost 64,000 people were murdered in Brazil. Not surprisingly, Bolsonaro's key campaign promise of giving more flexibility to police and security forces to shoot at criminals and drug dealers has been applauded by much of the population.

About half of respondents in a March poll by Ibope agreed with the statement "A good thief is a dead thief."

"Bolsonaro despises democracy, at least the version that has been practiced in Brazil over the past 30 years," writes Brian Winter in Americas Quarterly magazine.

Winter cites the fact that Bolsonaro, in the past, has called for Congress to be closed, said that Brazil's military dictatorship's biggest mistake was "to torture instead of kill," and that if elected president he would "start a dictatorship right away."

More recently, Bolsonaro has vowed to stack the Supreme Court with sympathetic judges and has picked a recently retired general—who is also nostalgic of the military dictatorship—as his running mate.

Despite Bolsonaro's latest claim that he would not seek to change the 1988 Constitution, "There is simply far more evidence that suggests Bolsonaro, when faced with resistance, will ignore or trample democratic practices and norms to get his way," Winter says.

That's bad news.

In Latin America, right-wing autocratic regimes tend to produce violent counter-reactions and generate new crops of radical leftist leaders.

The tragedy of Brazil's Oct. 28 election is that Bolsonaro's rival Haddad is also running on an authoritarian platform. Haddad may be a moderate within his Workers' Party, but that party has run amok. It is calling for "social controls over the administration of justice" and is led by an admirer of Maduro's dictatorship in Venezuela.

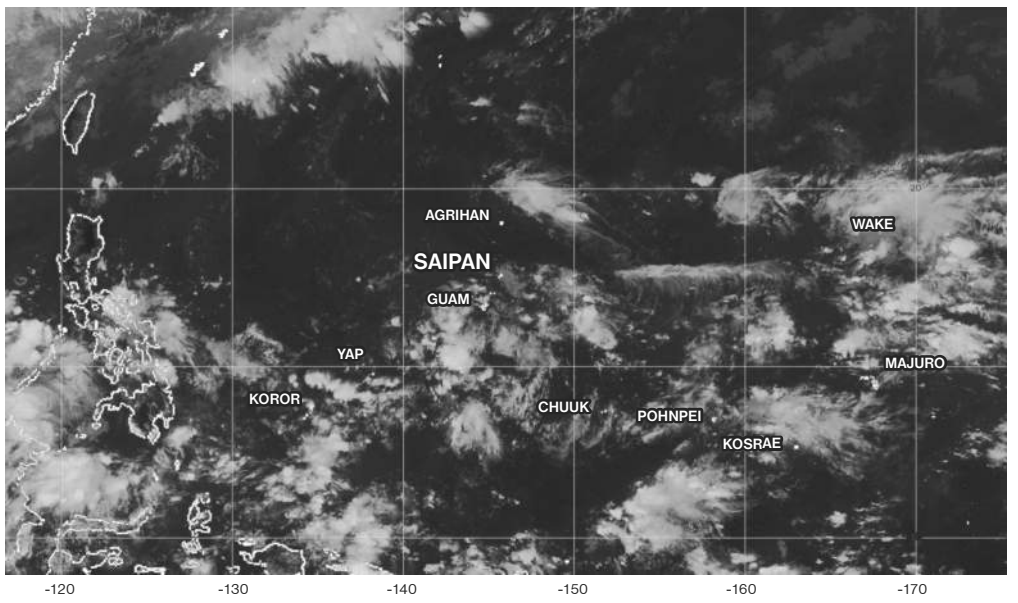
I hope I'm wrong about this, but it looks like—whoever wins the runoff election—Brazil is headed toward a chaotic populist autocracy.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable wind.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:32 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The trough which had been over the area has shifted westward, but guidance does bring a second trough across the area later today. There is some difference in the models as to what happens, with the GFS being more robust with the showers. For now have kept just isolated showers and thunder, but there could be scattered, for at least a portion of the area, if the GFS is correct. Isolated showers and thunderstorms prevail through Tuesday night before drier air in the midlevels and a more easterly trade wind pattern returns to the area. However, by the weekend, this pattern will breakdown as light flow moves in but mid level dryness remains.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	64° / 37°
Hong Kong	Showers	81° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 74°
London	Sunny	64° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 58°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	72° / 55°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
New York	Mostly Sunny	59° / 48°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	77° / 54°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	68° / 52°
Rome	Showers	77° / 63°
Salem	Thunderstorms	85° / 63°
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 49°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	64° / 43°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	70° / 57°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:41 AM	LOW TIDE	0.13
2:15 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.65
7:54 PM	LOW TIDE	1.21
11:49 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.44

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:56 PM
Wednesday	6:08 AM	5:55 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:09 AM	11:43 PM	-
Wednesday	12:56 AM	-	-
Thursday	-	12:33 AM	1:41 PM
Friday	-	1:22 AM	2:24 PM
Saturday	-	2:11 AM	3:05 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA105	4:55am	5:41am	3, 5
UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:00am	7:45am	Daily
UA104	11:30pm	12:16am+1	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ625	8:40pm	2:10am+1	7
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:35am	2, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:20pm	2:50am+1	1, 5

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	8:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	8:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	8:45am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174 via GUM	10:25pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
PR110/UA174	10:55pm	7:45am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:30am	8:25am	1
UO43	6:00am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	8:45am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:25am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:30am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Study: Without Medicaid expansion, poor forgo medical care

WASHINGTON (AP)—Low-income people in states that haven't expanded Medicaid are much more likely to forgo needed medical care than the poor in other states, according to a government report due out Monday amid election debates from Georgia to Utah over coverage for the needy.

The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office worked with the National Center for Health Statistics to analyze federal survey data from 2016. The research focused on low-income adults ages 19-64 in states that did not expand Medicaid under the Obama-era Affordable Care Act, compared to their peers in states that did.

Medicaid expansion is an issue in several high-profile gubernatorial contests and in states where supporters have gotten referendum questions on the ballot. Under the law, states may expand Medicaid for low-income people making up to roughly $16,750 for an individual or $34,640 for a family of four. Seventeen states have not adopted the expansion, opposed by many — but not all — Republicans.

Among the report's findings:

■ Nearly 20 percent of low-income people in states that did not expand Medicaid said they passed up needed medical care in the past 12 months because they couldn't afford it. That compared to 9.4 percent in states that expanded the program.

■ About 8 percent of those in states that did not expand Medicaid reported they either skipped medication doses to save money or took less medication than prescribed. That compared to about 5 percent in states that expanded. For people with chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and asthma, staying on a medication schedule is considered essential.

■ About 22 percent of those in states not expanding Medicaid said they needed but could not afford dental care, as compared to 15 percent of similar low-income adults in expansion states.

■ About 11 percent of those in non-expansion states said they needed to see a specialist but weren't able to afford it, as compared to about 6 percent of those in expansion states.

"States around the country have an opportunity to expand Medicaid to more people; these findings help show why it's a winning proposition for states and the millions of Americans currently left out," said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., who requested the analysis.

Aides to Wyden said the 70-page report is the most detailed look yet at real-world differences that Medicaid expansion can make. In states that did not expand Medicaid, low-income adults are more likely to be uninsured.

Medicaid is a federal-state program that has grown to cover about 1 in 5 U.S. residents, from many newborns to severely disabled people to elderly nursing home residents. Its total cost is about $570 billion a year. Former President Barack Obama's health care law expanded Medicaid to allow states to cover low-income adults with no children living at home.

AP

In this June 28, 2018, file photo, Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, speaks during a hearing on the nomination of Charles Rettig for Internal Revenue Service Commissioner on Capitol Hill in Washington.

On Election Day, voters in Idaho, Nebraska and Utah will decide whether their states should expand the program. Montana voters will decide on maintaining that state's expansion.

Expansion also is an issue in gubernatorial races in Florida, Georgia and Wisconsin, which have not expanded Medicaid.

With the federal government covering at least 90 percent of the cost, expansion proponents argue states turning it down are leaving on the table tax dollars their own citizens send to Washington. Backers include hospital systems and health insurers, and many local business groups.

Opponents contend that the cost is still too high for states, which have other major financial responsibilities for education, infrastructure and law enforcement, and must balance their budgets.

President Donald Trump's administration is strongly opposed to Medicaid expansion and tried unsuccessfully to repeal it during Trump's first year.

Medicare and Medicaid administrator Seema Verma argues that Medicaid was originally intended as a safety-net program for the most vulnerable in society and covering able-bodied adults is beyond its scope. Verma is encouraging states to set work requirements for Medicaid, contending that will encourage people to earn their way out of poverty and dependence on government insurance.

Round of talks don't resolve Brexit problems ahead of summit

BRUSSELS (AP)—A flurry of talks between Britain and the European Union ended Sunday without a Brexit agreement, leaving the two sides three days to close a gap in their positions before a make-or-break summit.

An unscheduled, face-to-face meeting between EU negotiator Michel Barnier and British Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab, and a hastily scheduled meeting of 27 EU ambassadors in Brussels, had sparked speculation that the long-awaited deal was imminent.

Barnier dashed those hopes Sunday evening, writing on Twitter: "Despite intense efforts, some key issues are still open" in the divorce talks. The key stumbling block remains the need "to avoid a hard border" between Ireland and the U.K's Northern Ireland after Brexit, he said.

British Prime Minister Theresa May is under intense pressure from her Conservative Party and its parliamentary allies not to give any more ground in negotiations, especially on the border issue.

The British government said in a statement issued Sunday night there were still "unresolved issues" but insisted negotiators had made "real progress" toward a divorce agreement.

The lack of a breakthrough on the border increased the chances that the Brexit negotiations will fail to produce an agreement spelling out how the EU will interact with its former member and vice versa. EU officials have warned that real progress is needed at the summit starting Wednesday.

The British government said it remained committed to making progress at the summit. An EU official said no further negotiations were planned before the leaders of EU countries convene in Brussels. Both sides previously agreed that a special November meeting—to be called only if there is enough progress this week —would be the deadline for reaching an agreement since Britain is set to leave the EU on March 29.

The EU and the U.K. are seeking an elusive compromise position on the difficult Irish border question ahead of the summit. The "Irish backstop" is the main hurdle to a deal that spells out the terms of Britain's departure from the EU and future relationship with the bloc.

Reining in office 'disruptive duo'

Q: Two of my employees have an ongoing feud that creates an unpleasant environment in our office. "Cheryl" and "Doug" work in adjoining cubicles and find each other very irritating.

Cheryl gives Doug unsolicited advice about handling customer calls and makes snarky remarks during his conversations with coworkers. Doug is fed up with Cheryl's continual commentary, so he has now stopped speaking to her. He just acts as though she doesn't exist. How do I get these childish people to grow up?

A: One strategy for resolving coworker squabbles might be described as "together-separate-together." Start by having a joint meeting with your disruptive duo to stress the seriousness of the problem and establish clear expectations. Your objective is not to resolve the issue, but to set the stage for the next step.

For example: "The two of you are apparently unable to work together in a professional manner. Because this can't continue, we have to make some changes. Regardless of how you feel about each other, you are expected to be consistently pleasant and cooperative at work. After I meet with you separately to set some goals, we will get back together and agree on a plan." Then end the meeting without further discussion.

In the individual sessions, you should address each person's contribution to the problem. Since Cheryl appears to be the instigator, talk with her first and firmly explain that Doug's conversations are none of her business. She must focus on her own work and stop making unwelcome and unnecessary remarks.

In Doug's case, the issue is his equally immature reaction to Cheryl's annoying behavior. He needs to understand that passive-aggressive retaliation is simply unacceptable. When a colleague is being intentionally irritating, he should either ask that person to stop or discuss the issue with you.

As a final step, bring Cheryl and Doug back together, reiterate your expectations and have them summarize what they will do differently in the future. Thank them for their cooperation and then schedule a follow-up meeting to assess progress.

If they end their feud, express appreciation. But if they begin to backslide, you must immediately remind them of their agreements.

Q: I have a routine job in which the duties seldom change. My position isn't very demanding, but that's just fine with me. While I want to do my current work well, I have no desire to move up or get ahead.

Unfortunately, our new manager believes that everyone should be interested in advancement. He is planning to meet with each of us soon to discuss our career goals. Since I don't really have any goals, what should I say?

A: Having been promoted themselves, managers often assume that everyone shares their motivation. However, many highly competent folks are more focused on other things. Some want to continue doing tasks they enjoy, while others are energized by activities outside of work.

But since your new boss is all about career, don't highlight your lack of interest in moving up. Instead, focus on objectives that could help with your current job. For example, you might expand your knowledge of the business or acquire new technical skills. After all, ongoing learning is always an important career goal.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Nation

Mourners leave St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church during calling hours for Schoharie limo crash victims; Abigail (King) Jackson, Adam "Action" Jackson, Mary (King) Dyson, Robert J. Dyson, Allison A. King, Amy (King) Steenburg, Axel J. Steenburg and Richard Steenburg Jr., on Friday Oct. 12, 2018, in Amsterdam, N.Y. AP

Calls for new regulation mount as limo crash victims mourned

AMSTERDAM, N.Y. (AP)—The day after a mourning community said last goodbyes to eight of 20 victims of a limousine crash—four sisters and four other relatives—the Senate's top Democrat called on federal regulators to formulate new safety standards for the vehicles.

Sen. Chuck Schumer on Sunday pointed to glaring gaps in safety data and singled out the National Transportation Safety Board, which he said hasn't thoroughly investigated a limousine crash in three years.

His criticism comes a week after the stretch limo loaded with 18 people on their way to a birthday party for one of the occupants ran a stop sign and crashed at the bottom of a hill in the town of Schoharie. Everyone in the limo died, including the four sisters, along with two pedestrians.

"The sad fact here is that right now everyone is talking about limo safety when we could have been studying it for the past few years," Schumer said. "The NTSB knows they need to fix this situation so we can have as much information as possible available."

At a news conference, he called on the NTSB to investigate every stretch limo crash that has occurred in the U.S. and use the data to make recommendations for safety standards that would then have to be implemented by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

The NTSB—charged by Congress to conduct independent probes and make safety recommendations—agreed to investigate limo crashes on a case-by-case basis after a 2015 wreck that killed four women on New York's Long Island.

But since then, Schumer said, multiple crashes should have been investigated and would have netted "critical safety data" about the structure and safety components of limousines. Federal crash data compiled by The Associated Press shows there were seven limo crashes in 2015 and two in 2016.

Factory-built limousines must meet stringent safety regulations. But luxury cars converted to limos, like the one in last week's crash, often lack such safety components as side-impact air bags, reinforced rollover protection bars and accessible emergency exits.

Few federal regulations govern limos modified after leaving the factory, and regulations often vary by state.

Eric Weiss, a spokesman for the NTSB, declined to comment.

In a 2015 letter, then-NTSB Chairman Christopher Hart said the board shared Schumer's concern that "relatively little information is available about how stretch limousines perform in a variety of crash scenarios."

Hundreds of mourners and the presiding pastor, the Rev. O. Robert DeMartinis, also sought answers Saturday at a church in Amsterdam at the funeral for Allison King; sister Abigail Jackson and her husband, Adam Jackson; sister Mary Dyson and her husband Robert Dyson; sister Amy Steenburg and her husband Axel Steenburg; and Steenburg's older brother, Richard Steenburg.

"The question that is in the hearts of so many is: Why?" The Rev. O. Robert DeMartinis told mourners. "Why did these 20 individuals have to be taken from us so quickly and so unexpectedly?"

DeMartinis officiated in June at the wedding of Amy and Axel Steenburg. It was Amy's birthday that was being celebrated at the time of the crash.

He recalled them as a laughter-loving couple who made a sign asking wedding guests not to take pictures because "we suggest that you live in the moment."

Immigrants face hurdles to prove abuse by US agents

HOUSTON (AP)—Within hours of being booked at a Border Patrol station in far West Texas, two teenage sisters from Guatemala came forward to allege that an agent conducted an improper strip search.

The agent in question denied the allegations, including the sisters' claims that he touched their genitals. He insisted he had only fingerprinted the sisters before taking them back to their cell.

Investigating the case came down to the sisters' word versus the agent's. And as in dozens of similar cases, government investigators sided with the agent.

Advocates say the case—outlined in a report compiled by internal investigators—shows the kinds of hurdles detained immigrants face when they make claims of misconduct, even when they come forward immediately, as the sisters did.

"These women were actually, for lack of a better word, lucky that their case was investigated," said Christina Mansfield, co-founder of the advocacy group Freedom for Immigrants. "They are in the extreme minority in that regard."

The sisters, ages 17 and 19, entered the U.S. without legal permission in July 2016, several days after leaving their home village in Guatemala. They were detained by Border Patrol agents shortly after crossing the border.

The Associated Press received a redacted copy of the investigative report through the Freedom of Information Act. It shows that investigators determined that the sisters' allegations could not be substantiated due to a lack of physical evidence.

The station where the sisters were detained did not have cameras in the booking area. The room where the sisters say they were taken, later described as a supply room or a closet, wasn't processed for fingerprints because the sisters said they didn't touch anything. And the agent in question said he was alone with the sisters due to manpower shortages, the report says.

Immigration advocates say the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General, which reviewed the sisters' case, rarely recommends action against officers. A study by Freedom for Immigrants found that between January 2010 and July 2016, the inspector general received 84 complaints of coerced sexual contact against U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which includes Border Patrol. The inspector general opened just seven investigations, none of which are known to have led to charges, according to the study, which was conducted by examining government records.

The study found a similarly low number of cases were investigated by the inspector general for detention facilities operated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

CBP would not directly address the sisters' case or whether it disciplined the agent involved. The agency said it was committed to treating detainees with "professionalism and courtesy."

Immigration authorities detain and process thousands of people every month who cross the U.S. border without permission. Border Patrol chief Carla Provost said in a recent interview that her agency takes any allegations against any of its 19,000 agents "very, very seriously." Provost previously led CBP's internal affairs division, which also investigates allegations of employee wrongdoing and that the agency has taken steps to strengthen in recent years.

Florida Panhandle building codes lagged behind rest of state

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—It was once argued that the trees would help save Florida's Panhandle from the fury of a hurricane, as the acres of forests in the region would provide a natural barrier to savage winds that accompany the deadly storms.

It's part of the reason that tighter building codes—mandatory in places such as South Florida—were not put in place for most of this region until just 11 years ago.

And it may be a painful lesson for area residents now that Hurricane Michael has ravaged the region, leaving sustained damage from the coast inland all the way to the Georgia border.

"We're learning painfully that we shouldn't be doing those kinds of exemptions," said Don Brown, a former legislator from the Panhandle who now sits on the Florida Building Commission. "We are vulnerable as any other part of the state. There was this whole notion that the trees were going to help us, take the wind out of the storm. Those trees become projectiles and flying objects."

Hurricane Andrew a generation ago razed Florida's most-populated areas with winds up to 165 mph (265 kph), damaging or blowing apart over 125,000 homes and obliterating almost all mobile homes in its path.

The acres of flattened homes showed how contractors cut corners amid the patchwork of codes Florida had at the time. For example, flimsy particle board was used under roofs instead of sturdier plywood, and staples were used instead of roofing nails.

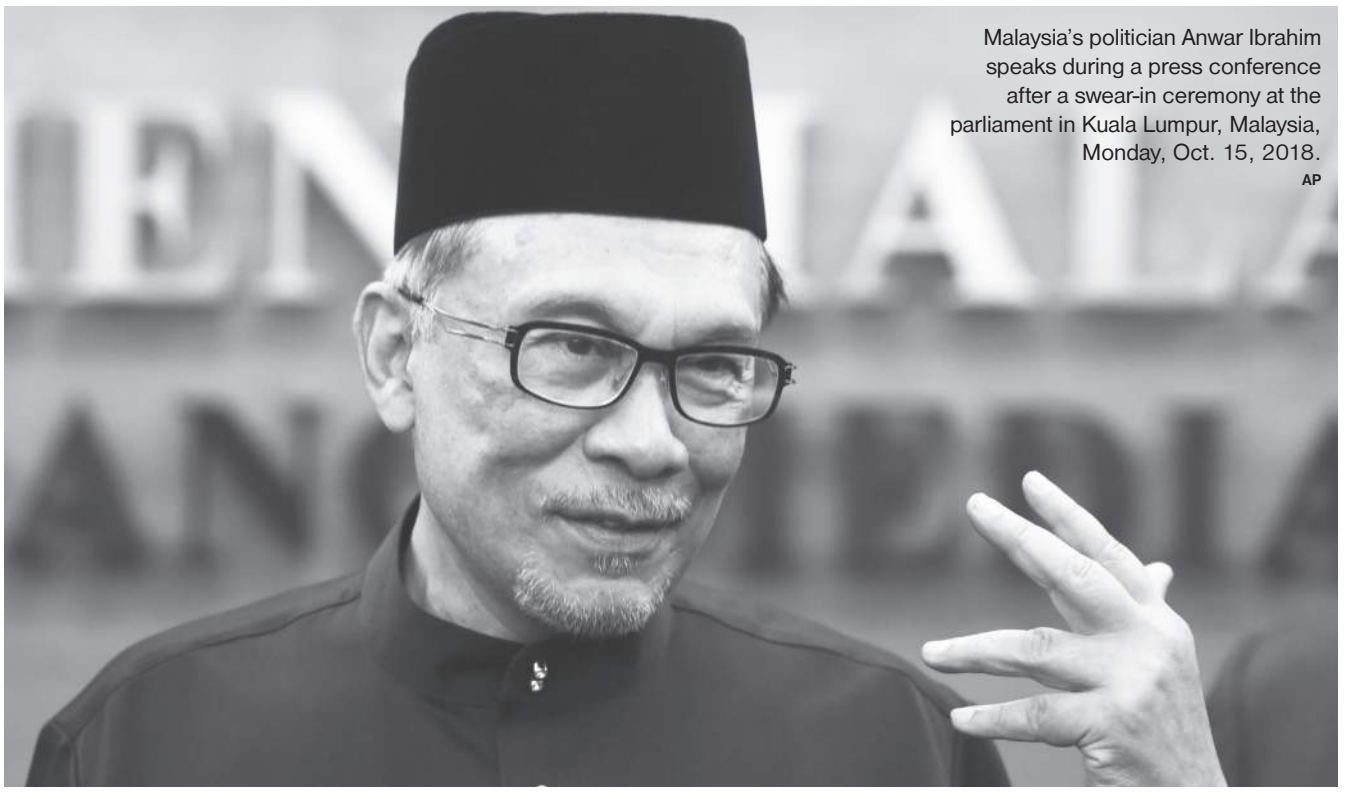
Since 2001, structures statewide must be built to withstand winds of 111 mph (178 kph) and up; the Miami area is considered a "high velocity hurricane zone" with much higher standards, requiring many structures to withstand hurricane winds in excess of 170 mph (273 kph).

Though Michael was packing winds as high as 155 mph, any boost in the level of safety requirements for builders helps a home avoid disintegrating in a hurricane.

Tom Lee, a homebuilder and legislator, says past hurricanes have shown time and time again that the stricter codes help. He said during past hurricanes he looked at the damage by plane and could tell if a home was built before the new code.

Asia

Malaysian PM-in-waiting Anwar takes oath as lawmaker



Malaysia's politician Anwar Ibrahim speaks during a press conference after a swear-in ceremony at the parliament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Monday, Oct. 15, 2018. AP

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian Prime Minister-in-waiting Anwar Ibrahim said he felt "vindicated" after taking his oath as a lawmaker Monday, marking his return to active politics three years after he was imprisoned for sodomy in a charge that critics said was politically motivated.

The swearing-in ceremony in parliament followed Anwar's landslide win in a by-election Saturday in the southern coastal town of Port Dickson in which he defeated six other candidates. The seat was vacated after a lawmaker from his party quit, paving the way for Anwar's political comeback.

Anwar, 71, joins his wife, Wan Azizah Wan Ismail — currently Malaysia's deputy prime minister — and his eldest daughter, Nurul Izzah Anwar, in parliament. He has said that his by-election victory is a "vote of confidence" in the new government.

"I have been deprived of my right from time to time and I have to go through a by-election to come back ... I feel vindicated," Anwar told reporters Monday. He reiterated support for Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's leadership to ensure a stable government and pledged to focus on parliamentary reforms.

"Our parliament has in the past been considered or dubbed as a rubber stamp ... we would like to ensure a new approach where parliament is more effective," he said.

Once a high-flying member of the former ruling coalition, Anwar was convicted of homosexual sodomy and corruption after a power struggle with Mahathir, who was prime minister for 22 years until 2003. He was freed in 2004 but was once again convicted for sodomy in 2015, charges that he said were concocted to destroy his political career.

Angered by a massive corruption scandal at a state investment fund involving then-Prime Minister Najib Razak, Mahathir made a political comeback and formed an alliance with Anwar, with the two setting aside their bitter feud ahead of May's general election.

Following their stunning election victory, Anwar was designated as Mahathir's successor.

Anwar was freed from prison and received a royal pardon days after the polls. Mahathir, the world's oldest leader at 93, has said he expects to step down in two years and will keep his promise to hand over power to Anwar.

"Of course I am happy he is back ... we expected him to come back. We knew he was going to win," Mahathir was quoted as saying by local media on Monday.

Climbers who died in Nepal storm included famed South Korean

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—The nine climbers who died during the worst disaster on a Nepal mountain in recent years included the first South Korean to summit all 14 Himalayan peaks over 8,000 meters without using supplemental oxygen.

Seoul's Foreign Ministry confirmed on Monday that Kim Chang-ho was among the dead but has not yet disclosed the names of the four other South Koreans. Four Nepalese guides also were killed when a storm swept the climbers' base camp on Gurja Himal mountain Friday.

Rescuers had retrieved the climbers' bodies on Sunday after weather cleared. The body of one of the guides was taken to his village, while the eight others were flown to Kathmandu.

"It was the worst mountaineering disaster in Nepal in recent years and an unimaginable one," said Rameshwor Niraula of Nepal's Mountaineering Department, which issues climbing permits and monitors expeditions.

Niraula said officials were still gathering details of what exactly happened but from what rescuers described, the climbers were blown over by the blast of the blizzard-like wind conditions.

One Korean member of the climbing team had become ill and was in a village far below the base camp during the storm.

It was the deadliest climbing disaster in Nepal since 2015 when 19 people were killed at Mount Everest base camp by an avalanche triggered by an earthquake that devastated the country. The previous year, an avalanche above Everest's base camp killed 16 Nepalese Sherpa guides.

The Himalayan range includes all 14 of the world's peaks that rise above 8,000 meters, and only a few dozen climbers have made verified, successful ascents of them all. Kim achieved his feat in 2013.

Santa Lama of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, who helped with coordinating the rescue, said since all nine people at the camp were killed and no surviving witnesses it was difficult to say what exactly happened or when.

The climbers were also attempting to scale a 7,193-meter (23,590-foot) peak which is not among the highest, the most difficult or popular mountain to climb in Nepal.

Grieving family members gathered at the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Nepal's capital where the bodies were to be autopsied before being handed to their families.

Mattis pushes closer ties to Vietnam amid tension with China

WASHINGTON (AP)—By making a rare second trip this year to Vietnam, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is signaling how intensively the Trump administration is trying to counter China's military assertiveness by cozying up to smaller nations in the region that share American wariness about Chinese intentions.

The visit beginning Tuesday also shows how far U.S.-Vietnamese relations have advanced since the tumultuous years of the Vietnam War.

Mattis, a retired general who entered the Marine Corps during Vietnam but did not serve there, visited Hanoi in January. By coincidence, that stop came just days before the 50th anniversary of the Tet Offensive in 1968. Tet was a turning point when North Vietnamese fighters attacked an array of key objectives in the South, surprising Washington and feeding anti-war sentiment even though the North's offensive turned out to be a tactical military failure.

Three months after the Mattis visit, an U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, made a port call at Da Nang. It was the first such visit since the war and a reminder to China that the U.S. is intent on strengthening partnerships in the region as a counterweight to China's growing military might.

The most vivid expression of Chinese assertiveness is its transformation of contested islets and other features in the South China Sea into strategic military outposts. The Trump administration has sharply criticized China for deploying surface-to-air missiles and other weapons on some of these outposts. In June, Mattis said the placement of these weapons is "tied directly to military use for the purposes of intimidation and coercion."

This time Mattis is visiting Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam's most populous city and its economic center. Known as Saigon during the period before the communists took over the Republic of South Vietnam in 1975, the city was renamed for the man who led the Vietnamese nationalist movement.

Mattis also plans to visit a Vietnamese air base, Bien Hoa, a major air station for American forces during the war, and meet with the defense minister, Ngo Xuan Lich.

The visit comes amid a leadership transition after the death in September of Vietnam's president, Tran Dai Quang. Earlier this month, Vietnam's ruling Communist Party nominated its general secretary, Nguyen Phu Trong, for the additional post of president. He is expected to be approved by the National Assembly.

Although Vietnam has become a common destination for American secretaries of defense, two visits in one year is unusual, and Ho Chi Minh City is rarely on the itinerary. The last Pentagon chief to visit Ho Chi Minh City was William Cohen in the year 2000; he was the first U.S. defense secretary to visit Vietnam since the war. Formal diplomatic relations were restored in 1995 and the U.S. lifted its war-era arms embargo in 2016.

The Mattis trip originally was to include a visit to Beijing, but that stop was canceled amid rising tensions over trade and defense issues. China recently rejected a request for a Hong Kong port visit by an American warship, and last summer Mattis disinvited China from a major maritime exercise in the Pacific. China in September scrapped a Pentagon visit by its navy chief and demanded that Washington cancel an arms sale to Taiwan.

These tensions have served to accentuate the potential for a stronger U.S. partnership with Vietnam.

Josh Kurlantzick, a senior fellow and Asia specialist at the Council on Foreign Relations, said in an interview that Vietnam in recent years has shifted from a foreign and defense policy that carefully balanced relations with China and the United States to one that shades in the direction of Washington.

"I do see Vietnam very much aligned with some of Trump's policies," he said, referring to what the administration calls its "free and open Indo-Pacific strategy." It emphasizes ensuring all countries in the region are free from coercion and keeping sea lanes, especially the contested South China Sea, open for international trade.

"Vietnam, leaving aside Singapore, is the country the most skeptical of China's Southeast Asia policy and makes the most natural partner for the U.S.," Kurlantzick said.

Vietnam's proximity to the South China Sea makes it an important player in disputes with China over territorial claims to islets, shoals and other small land formations in the sea. Vietnam also fought a border war with China in 1979.

Traditionally wary of its huge northern neighbor, Vietnam shares China's system of single-party rule. Vietnam has increasingly cracked down on dissidents and corruption, with scores of high-ranking officials and executives jailed since 2016 on Trong's watch.

Sweeping economic changes over the past 30 years have opened Vietnam to foreign investment and trade, and made it one of fastest growing economies in Southeast Asia. But the Communist Party tolerates no challenge to its one-party rule. Even so, the Trump administration has made a focused effort to draw closer to Vietnam.

When he left Hanoi in January, Mattis said his visit made clear that Americans and Vietnamese have shared interests that in some cases predate the dark period of the Vietnam War.

"Neither of us liked being colonized," he said.

World

Israel warns Hamas of 'painful' strikes if protests go on

Palestinians carry the body of Aisha Rabi, 48, during her funeral in the West Bank village of Biddya, Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018. AP

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday threatened "very painful blows" against Gaza's Hamas rulers if they don't halt protests along the perimeter fence that have led to clashes with Israeli troops.

Netanyahu said Israel is very close to waging a "different kind of activity" against the Islamic militants. He said "if it has any sense, Hamas will cease its fire and violent outbursts—now."

Hamas has orchestrated near-weekly protests along the Israel-Gaza boundary since March, pressing for an end to a decade-long Israel-Egyptian blockade of the isolated territory.

The protests have intensified in recent weeks as attempts to reach a truce with Israel, including an easing of the blockade, have faltered.

The Israeli military said 14,000 Palestinians thronged the border fence areas on Friday, burning tires and throwing rocks, firebombs and grenades at soldiers stationed atop earth mounds on the other side of the barrier.

Some 20 Palestinians breached the border during Friday's protest. Seven Palestinians were killed, including four who the military said were shot while approaching a military position in Israeli territory.

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman announced that following Friday's demonstrations Israel would halt all fuel shipments to the Gaza Strip until further notice.

Gaza, which already suffers from chronic power outages, relies on fuel shipments from Israel to power its electricity-generating plant. Israel last week reached a deal to provide Qatari-funded fuel to Gaza to increase electricity supplies.

"The State of Israel was prepared to improve the civilian reality in the Gaza Strip, but the decision of the Hamas leadership to use serious violence—especially on the same day in which tankers of diesel fuel were brought into the Gaza Strip—is what brought about the decision to cut off the supply of fuels," Lieberman said in a statement.

Israel transferred four tankers of Qatari-donated diesel to the beleaguered Gaza Strip on Friday.

Since protests began in March, at least 150 Palestinians have been killed while participating in or attending the Hamas-organized demonstrations. An Israeli soldier was also killed by a Gaza sniper in the same period.

The protests are aimed, in part, at lifting the crippling Israeli-Egyptian blockade of the Gaza Strip, which was put in place after Hamas took power in a 2007 coup. The blockade has plagued most of Gaza's 2 million residents. Electricity is supplied for roughly four hours a day, unemployment stands at more than 50 percent and tap water is unpotable.

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars over the past decade and have recently engaged in several flare-ups of fighting.

Hamas seeks a cease-fire with Israel to secure an easing of the blockade but accuses its West Bank rivals, Fatah, of thwarting the effort. Hamas has escalated the border protests in recent weeks in response to stalled negotiations with Israel moderated by Egypt and the United Nations.

Buffer zone brings fragile calm to Syria's rebel-held Idlib

BEIRUT (AP)—A month after Russia, Turkey and Iran came together in a last-ditch effort to avert a potentially catastrophic Syrian government offensive in Idlib, they appear to have succeeded in creating a buffer zone around the northern rebel-held province, defusing tensions in a major flashpoint area.

The deal has for now averted a government offensive on the last major opposition stronghold in Syria, where tens of thousands of militants, including foreign jihadis, live alongside 3 million civilians and opposition fighters. But if the truce falls apart, the fighting could cause massive displacement and bloodshed.

The Sept. 17 agreement called for setting up a demilitarized zone 15-20 kilometers (9-12 miles) deep and stretching along the front lines around Idlib, including parts of the provinces of Latakia, Hama and Aleppo.

Days ahead of an Oct. 10 deadline, Turkey-backed rebels and an al-Qaida-linked alliance pulled their heavy weaponry back from the front lines in accordance with the deal struck between the Russian and Turkish presidents. By Monday, all "radical terrorist groups" are also to pull back. At an unspecified date, Turkish troops and Russian military police plan to begin conducting coordinated patrols and monitoring with drones along the DMZ's boundaries.

Some jihadi groups have remained at their posts in the area, but for now they appear keen to avoid any confrontation with Turkey, activists say.

Hours before the deadline for them to pull out, there were reports of an exchange of fire between rebel fighters and government forces. An editorial in the pro-government Al-Thawra newspaper on Sunday said "The time for decisiveness has come in Idlib."

Here's a look at what to expect next:

TEMPORARY REPRIEVE

Syrian President Bashar Assad said earlier this month that the Russia-Turkey deal is a "temporary one" and that his government's ultimate goal is to restore control over all of Syria. He described Western objections to an offensive in Idlib as "hysterical."

Most observers believe plans for a government offensive are simply on hold and that Assad's forces will eventually retake the province—by force if need be. Amid the myriad rebel groups and hardcore jihadis in Idlib, there are concerns that any of a number of factions could trigger renewed fighting.

Those in the opposition fear the deal could end up like last year's so-called de-escalation zones implemented in central and southern Syria, where government forces used temporary cease-fire agreements to regroup and then launch devastating offensives.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported Sunday that government forces shelled rebel areas in the DMZ, causing material damage and wounding a child. Rebels stationed in the DMZ lobbed missiles at government forces in Jurin, killing at least two soldiers Saturday, the Observatory said.

International aid agencies working in northwestern Syria warn of dire consequences for millions of civilians if the Russia-Turkey deal doesn't result in a sustained reduction of violence in the overcrowded province.

Turkey, which supports the Syrian opposition, has deployed hundreds of soldiers to 12 observation posts that ring Idlib following a de-escalation agreement reached last year with Russia and Iran, both of which are allied with the government. That effectively positioned Turkey as a protector of the province and any government offensive risks leading to a direct clash between Syrian troops and Turkish forces.

REBEL INFIGHTING

Most rebel groups, including a Turkey-backed alliance known as the National Liberation Front, have accepted the deal on a demilitarized zone.

At least two jihadi groups, however, have rejected it, but most of their positions are deep inside Idlib, far from the front lines with government forces. These are the al-Qaida-linked Horas al-Din, which described the deal as a "great conspiracy," and the Ansar al-Din Front.

Another jihadi group, the Turkistan Islamic Party, which is mostly made up of Chinese fighters, has not left its positions in the town of Jisr al-Shughour on the edge of the DMZ.

Pressured over missing writer, Saudi Arabia lashes out

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Saudi Arabia has threatened to retaliate for any sanctions imposed against it after President Donald Trump said the oil-rich kingdom deserves "severe punishment" if it is responsible for the disappearance and suspected murder of Washington Post contributor Jamal Khashoggi.

The warning from the world's top oil exporter came after a turbulent day on the Saudi stock exchange, which plunged as much as 7 percent at one point Sunday.

The statement was issued as international concern grew over the writer who vanished on a visit to the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul over a week ago. American lawmakers threatened tough punitive action against the Saudis, and Germany, France and Britain jointly called for a "credible investigation" into Khashoggi's disappearance.

Turkish officials have said they fear a Saudi hit team killed and dismembered Khashoggi, who wrote critically of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The kingdom has called such allegations "baseless" but has not offered any evidence Khashoggi ever left the consulate.

Already, international business leaders are pulling out of the kingdom's upcoming investment forum, a high-profile event known as "Davos in the Desert," and the sell-off on Riyadh's Tadawul stock exchange showed that investors are uneasy.

The exchange dropped by over 500 points, then clawed back some of the losses, ending the day down 264 points, or more than 4 percent. Of 188 stocks traded on the exchange, 179 ended the day with a loss.

"Something this big would definitely spook investors, and Saudi just opened up for foreign direct investment, so that was big," said Issam Kassabieh, a financial analyst at Dubai-based firm Menacorp Finance. "Investors do not feel solid in Saudi yet, so it's easy for them to take back their funds."

In an interview aired Sunday, Trump told CBS' "60 Minutes" that Saudi Arabia would face strong consequences if involved in Khashoggi's disappearance.

"There's something really terrible and disgusting about that, if that was the case, so we're going to have to see," Trump said. "We're going to get to the bottom of it, and there will be severe punishment."

Focus

AP
David Barrows, center, with Code Pink, wears a mask of Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during a protest outside of Saudi Arabia's Embassy about the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018, in Washington.

Saudi crown prince's carefully managed rise hides dark side

By JON GAMBRELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—In a kingdom once ruled by an ever-aging rotation of elderly monarchs, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman stands out as the youthful face of a youthful nation. But behind the carefully calibrated public-relations campaign pushing images of the smiling prince meeting with the world's top leaders and business executives lurks a darker side.

Last year, at age 31, Mohammed became the kingdom's crown prince, next in line to the throne now held by his octogenarian father, King Salman. While pushing for women to drive, he has overseen the arrest of women's rights activists. While calling for foreign investment, he has imprisoned businessmen, royals and others in a crackdown on corruption that soon resembled a shakedown of the kingdom's most powerful people.

As Saudi defense minister from the age of 29, he pursued a war in Yemen against Shiite rebels that began a month after he took the helm and wears on today.

What the crown prince chooses next likely will affect the world's largest oil producer for decades to come. And as the disappearance and feared death of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul may show, the young prince will brook no dissent in reshaping the kingdom in his image.

"I don't want to waste my time," he told Time Magazine in a cover story this year. "I am young."

Khashoggi, a U.S. resident who wrote several columns for The Washington Post critical of Prince Mohammed, disappeared Oct. 2 on a visit to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Turkish officials have offered no evidence, but say they fear the writer was killed and dismembered by a Saudi team of 15 men—an operation that, if carried out, would have to have been authorized by the top of the Al Saud monarchy. The kingdom describes the allegation as "baseless," but has provided no proof that Khashoggi ever left the consulate.

For decades in Saudi Arabia, succession passed down among the dozens of sons of the kingdom's founder, King Abdul-Aziz. And, over time, the sons have grown older and older upon reaching the throne.

When King Salman took power in January of 2015 and quickly appointed Prince Mohammed as defense minister, it took the kingdom by surprise, especially given the importance of the position and the prince's age.

He was little-known among the many grandchildren of Saudi Arabia's patriarch, a young man educated only in the kingdom who stuck close to his father, who previously served as the governor of Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

As defense minister, he entered office facing a crisis in Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, which lies south of the kingdom. Shiite rebels known as Houthis had overrun the country's capital, Sanaa, unseating the deeply unpopular government of Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

When Hadi fled and it appeared the country's port city of Aden would fall to the rebels, Saudi Arabia launched a coalition war against the Houthis—a conflict that soon became a stalemate.

The United Nations estimates 10,000 people have been killed in Yemen's conflict, and activists say that number is likely far higher. It has exacerbated what the U.N. calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with hunger and cholera stalking civilians, worsened by the kingdom's blockade of ports.

Meanwhile, the Saudi-led coalition has faced widespread criticism for its airstrikes hitting clinics and marketplaces, which have killed civilians. The Houthis, as well, have indiscriminately used land mines and arrested political opponents.

The coalition says Iran has funneled weapons to the Houthis ranging from small arms to the ballistic missiles now regularly fired into the kingdom, which Iran denies.

For Prince Mohammed, the conflict remains part of what he sees as an existential struggle between Saudi Arabia and Iran for the future of the Middle East. Asked about Western concerns over civilian casualties, he offers this: "Mistakes happen in all wars."

"We don't need to have a new Hezbollah in the Arabian Peninsula. This is a red line not only for Saudi Arabia but for the whole world," the prince recently told Bloomberg, referring to the Iran-allied Shiite militant group and political party dominant in Lebanon.

The prince also found himself involved in the bizarre resignation-by-television address of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri, who announced he would step down during a visit to the kingdom in November 2017, fueling suspicion he was coerced into doing so.

Prince Mohammed's harsh rhetoric extends to likening Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to Nazi Germany's Adolf Hitler. He's also hinted Saudi Arabia would be willing to fight Iran in other ways, leading Tehran to link the kingdom to an attack on a military parade in Ahvaz last month that killed at least 24 people and wounded more than 60. Both Arab separatists and the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the assault.

"We won't wait for the battle to be in Saudi Arabia," the prince told the Saudi-owned broadcasting company MBC last year. "Instead, we will work so that the battle is for them in Iran, not in Saudi Arabia."

His aggressive posture against Iran has won the support of U.S. President Donald Trump and his administration, which pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal struck by President Barack Obama, whom the kingdom deeply distrusted.

Before becoming crown prince, Prince Mohammed visited the White House and forged a close relationship with Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner. The two are believed to be working on the administration's peace plans for Israel and the Palestinians.

Trump made Riyadh his first stop overseas as president, a visit complete with Arab pageantry and opulence. Behind the scenes, many analysts believe Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates saw a greenlight to move ahead with the ongoing boycott of Qatar, a small Arabian Peninsula nation, over a political dispute.

Trump initially seemed to favor the boycott of Qatar, which is home to al-Udeid Air Base, the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command.

Trump's first Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, sought in vain to pressure the Saudis into resolving the spat and complained privately that the ties between the White House and Prince Mohammed were hurting the effort, officials said at the time. Tillerson's dismissal in March and the arrival of Mike Pompeo as Trump's top diplomat markedly reduced the State Department's heat on Saudi Arabia about the detentions of human rights activists, including women, and the conflict in Yemen.

Despite the mounting civilian casualties in Yemen, Pompeo certified to Congress in September that Saudi Arabia was taking steps to reduce and limit them, drawing severe condemnations from lawmakers and human rights groups.

Saudi Arabia soon embarked on the prince's ambitious proposal to allow women in the ultraconservative Wahhabi nation to drive. The resulting pictures of women in long black abayas behind the wheel represented a public-relations coup for the image-shaping firms employed by the kingdom, as did footage of women attending soccer matches and movie theaters for the first time in decades.

But before women started their engines, a new crackdown emerged: The kingdom rounded up and imprisoned women's rights activists, including reportedly grabbing one woman who was in the neighboring United Arab Emirates.

Prince Mohammed has wowed the business world with promises of an initial public offering for the state oil behemoth Saudi Arabian Oil Co., known as Saudi Aramco, suggesting it would have a $2 trillion valuation. Stocks markets around the world have pitched having the IPO on their exchanges, but it has been repeatedly delayed.

The young prince has traveled across the U.S. as part of his business pitch, meeting leaders like former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos, who owns The Washington Post.

Prince Mohammed also hosted a major business summit at Riyadh's Ritz Carlton, complete with a humanoid robot named Sophia being awarded Saudi citizenship.

Only weeks later, the hotel turned into a luxury prison as part of a mass arrest of businessmen, royals and others orchestrated by Prince Mohammed in a move described as targeting corruption. Those released agreed to sign over some of their assets, however, giving it the feel of a shakedown.

"If I have the power and the king has the power to take action against influential people, then you are already fundamentally strong," Prince Mohammed told CBS earlier this year.

For now, the anger over Khashoggi's disappearance appears to have galvanized international criticism of the young prince, about whom the columnist wrote critically for the Post.

Trump, already angry over rising global oil prices, has said he wants answers from Saudi Arabia and suggested Khashoggi's fiancee could visit the White House.

Prominent American lawmakers also are indignant—though U.S.-Saudi relations have survived even the 15 of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers being from the kingdom.

The opaqueness of the Al Saud royal family makes it difficult to see what effect the controversy is having on support for Prince Mohammed at home. State television continues to air footage of him attending meetings and greeting officials as if all is normal.

And as the son of the king, analysts say he has the full protection of the throne's powers.

Once asked if anything could stop him, the prince gave a two-word reply: "Only death."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: Hyundai Kona is not too bold, not too bland

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

At first sight the all-new Hyundai Kona in lime green made me look twice to see if what I was seeing was really real. This lime-green subcompact crossover had so much body cladding over the wheel arches and fenders that it evoked the big ugly known as the Pontiac Aztek.

But — you knew there was a but coming — during a longer look without contrasting two-tone colors, it looked like a small crossover convenient for urban errands, suburban slogging and weekend getaways. Not too garishly edgy, not too artificially off-road suggestive. The thunder-gray body appeared more unified in design and less like a silly attempt to stand out in a class full of quirks such as the Kia Soul, Toyota C-HR, Ford EcoSport and Nissan Kicks.

By the end of our week together, I really liked this cute ute, which is odd due to the otherwise homogenous nature of the small crossovers being churned out by automakers at a rate that would make bunnies blush.

We logged more miles than usual in and out of the city. It hauled hockey gear and kids, grocery bags and hangry tweens, and was one of the few vehicles our midsize puppy eagerly jumped into. And the lime-green interior trim circling the vents and lining the leather-trimmed seats was loved by the girl.

Kona drives like a hatchback, with nimble handling and punchy bursts of power from the familiar 175-horsepower turbocharged four-cylinder, also used in the Tucson crossover and Sonata sedan. The AWD Kona is a few hundred pounds lighter (3,276 pounds) than those vehicles, so even though there is turbo lag from a dead stop, once it's up and moving, Kona is pleasantly responsive.

More impressive is how it tucks in and out of turns around town without feeling like it may roll into that landscaped suburban lawn. The visibility and seat height is still high like a crossover, and the proportions inside don't feel cramped, yet the Kona is narrow enough to pass through alleyways and double-parked delivery vehicles without hesitation. It's good for city folk who need something slightly larger, and suburban folk ready to downsize.

Our 31 mpg average exceeded EPA estimates, partly because we were driving in that sweet-sipping 55 mph range, and partly because of the smooth-shifting seven-speed transmission. In sport mode with the dual-clutch transmission, the shifts are more noticeable and more fun.

The best part of the Kona in the top Ultimate trim is the interior. For under $30,000 fully loaded, it has the refinement of premium makes from Acura to Buick, and easy-to-use technology that is actually convenient, from the eight-inch touch screen to the comprehensive vehicle info display in the instrument cluster. Even though the recently announced 2019 model comes standard with advanced driver assistance systems such as lane keep, we wished the loaded 2018 also came with adaptive cruise control.

The rear seats are tight, which is common for this class, but we comfortably fit two tweens and two adults. Two hockey bags fit in the hatch, but the goalie pads and the sticks had to ride shotgun. A pass-through would have been nice for the sticks.

These are such minor complaints in what is otherwise one of the better overall packages in the subcompact crossover class. And there's the choice of contrasting two-tone schemes, if that's your thing.

NUTS & BOLTS

2018 Hyundai Kona Ultimate AWD at a glance

- Vehicle class: Subcompact crossover
- Base price: $19,500 (base SE trim)
- As tested: $28,825 (excluding $980 delivery)
- Mpg: 26 city, 29 highway, 27 combined
- Engine: 175-hp 1.6-liter turbocharged four-cylinder
- Transmission: Seven-speed dual-clutch automatic
- Competitive rank: Hyundai Kona, Kia Soul, Buick Encore, Subaru Crosstrek, Mazda CX-3

TNS
The all-new 2018 Hyundai Kona subcompact crossover drives like a hatch, fits like a crossover and comes packaged as one of the best values in the class.

Under the Hood: Heavy hauling requires picking suitable tires

Q: I'm considering new tires for my GMC 2500 and want to plan ahead for possible RV usage. This may be either a trailer, fifth wheel or large camper—jury is still out. What advice do you have for me to consider regarding strength and sizes?

— Larry M.

A: It's great to plan ahead like this! You'll be looking at LT (light truck tires) and will want to keep the load range, ply rating and/or load index numbers in mind. Typical 3/4 ton and one ton truck tires should be load range E (10 ply) as opposed to D (8 ply) or C (6 ply) found on lighter duty trucks. Often you'll see load index numbers instead, such as 121/120T, which indicates 3,195 maximum load pounds per tire — 3,085 if used in dual wheel configuration. (T is the speed rating: 118 mph.) The dual rating considers the possibility of one tire carrying the load should the mate fail. Readily available charts indicate load range vs. pounds per tire, and speed ratings, for other values.

Tire size and aspect ratio also contribute to strength. Generally, a larger tire with a taller profile (75 series rather than 70) will carry a higher load rating. For example, my truck came equipped with LT245/75/16E tires (3,042 pounds, 12/116S) with a 30.4 inch diameter. When it was time for replacement I upgraded to LT265/75/16E tires (3,415 pounds, 123/120R, 31.6 inch diameter), upping the load capacity of the four tires by 1,492 pounds. This was compatible with my rim width and was the largest size I found that would not rub front tires against the fenders during sharp turns. A larger size 70 series tire would have also fit but had about the same load capacity as the originals.

It's important to remember that regardless of how sturdy the tires may be, one should not exceed the truck's gross vehicle and rear axle ratings.

Q: How critical is it to get a "check engine" light fixed? I've noticed a lot of people driving around with this light on.

— Victor

A: An illuminated "check engine," also called "service engine soon," light indicates a fault is occurring in the engine management system that is inferred to cause excessive exhaust emissions. There are perhaps a hundred or more possible causes for this, some more important than others. If the engine runs abnormally at all, immediate service is important, particularly an engine misfire (chugging/bucking/shaking — most noticeable on acceleration) which if severe enough will result in a flashing light. There can be other causes, such as a faulty gas cap seal, that have no effect on engine performance, or perhaps an intermittent fault that only causes brief symptoms.

Besides the obvious concern of increased exhaust emissions and possibly reduced fuel economy, one needs to consider the possibility of catalytic converter or engine damage should the engine operate abnormally. With the proliferation of inexpensive code readers and scan tools, it shouldn't be difficult to have the cause quickly checked. A web lookup of the DTC (diagnostic trouble code) can shed light on the possible cause and likely severity of effects—if any—on engine performance.

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

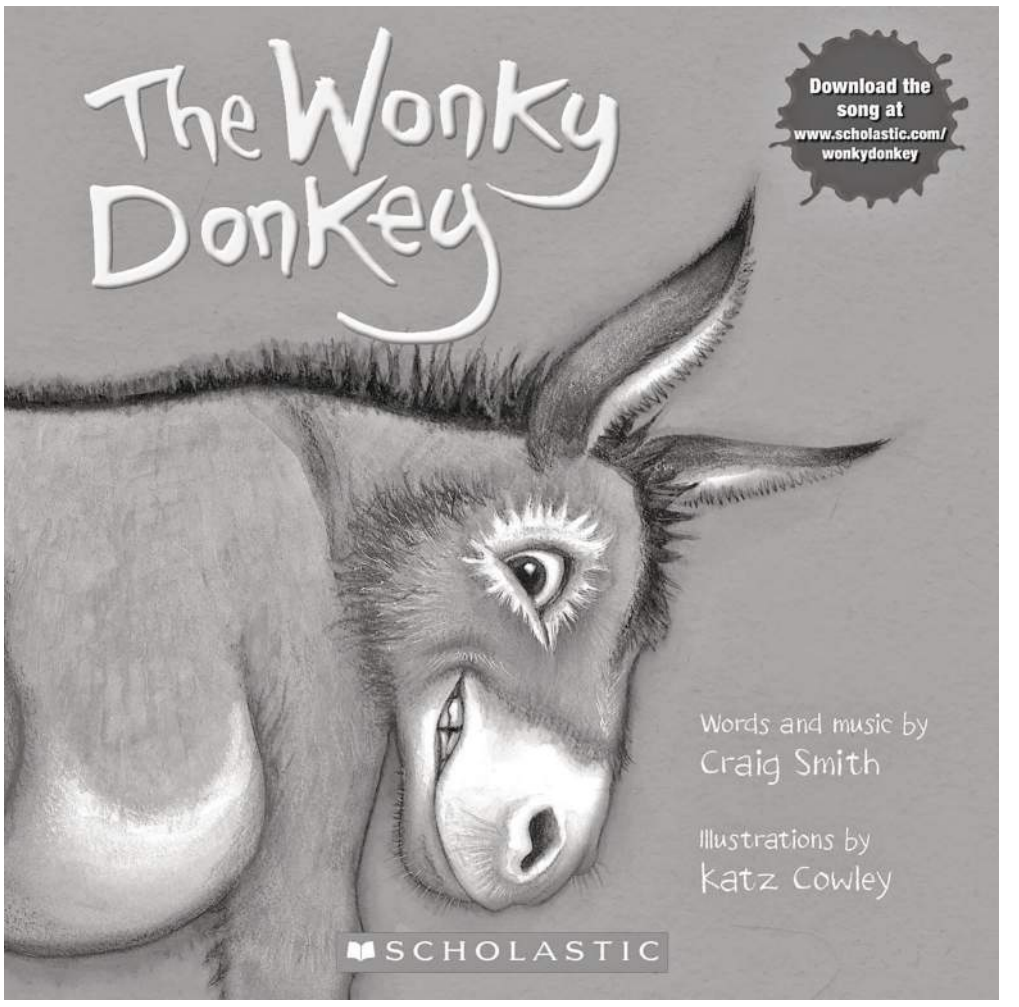
Life & Style

'Laughing grandmother' video makes picture book a big hit

NEW YORK (AP)—The country's hottest book isn't a hit because of Oprah Winfrey or Donald Trump. It's all because of a laughing Scottish grandmother.

Thanks to a viral video of Janice Clark reading Craig Smith's "The Wonky Donkey" to her baby grandson, and her breathless amusement over lines such as "He was a honky-tonky winky wonky donkey," the 2009 picture book about a three-legged, one-eyed donkey has sold more than 100,000 copies in the United States this fall, much of that in the past week. According to NPD BookScan, which tracks around 85 percent of the print market, "Wonky Donkey" topped all releases with more than 90,000 copies sold last week, beating out Bob Woodward's "Fear" and Rachel Hollis' "Girl, Wash Your Face," among others.

"You can't ask for a better endorsement of your creation than when the person reading your book is having a better time than the child being read to. Janice's infectious laughter was an absolute delight!" wrote Smith, a New Zealand-based musician and author, in a recent email. "Remember, this viral sensation came about because a grandmother read a BOOK to her grandson, albeit a very special grandmother."



This cover image released by Scholastic shows "The Wonky Donkey" by Craig Smith and illustrated by Katz Cowly. The 2009 picture story has been out-selling Bob Woodward's "Fear" and Rachel Hollis' "Girl, Wash Your Face" among others, thanks to a viral video of Scottish grandmother Janice Clark reading Craig Smith's "The Wonky Donkey" to her grandson. AP

"The Wonky Donkey," featuring illustrations by Katz Cowley, had already sold hundreds of thousands of copies in New Zealand and Australia, where Clark, a native of Scotland, now lives. But until recently it had a much smaller audience in the United States. According to Scholastic, the book had sold about 75,000 copies and was out of print before the video caught on last month.

"Before this fall, if you had said 'Wonky Donkey' in my store, no one would have known what you were talking about," said Linda Devlin, owner of Linda's Story Time in Monroe, Connecticut. "Now, it just sells and sells. People see it and say, 'Oh, I have to get that for my grandchildren.'"

Scholastic announced Friday that it had ordered another 600,000 copies. Meanwhile, Clark is coming to New York in November for an event at Barnes & Noble.

The video was shot was by Clark's daughter, Fiona Clark. In an email Friday, Fiona Clark wrote that she had purchased a copy of the book from a second-hand store, knowing her mother would love it. In July, she posted the video on her Facebook page.

"At that stage it was friends only," Clark wrote. "Then a lady in my sewing group asked what her son could wear for book week as he wanted to go as donkey. That's when I shared the video publicly. By August 30, the author had seen it and got in touch. That's when it went on YouTube to share with the wider audience—we also created a Facebook page for granny. We all watched as the views went up and up, we're completely blown away by the number of people who have watched and shared the video."

Portman calls for action at Hollywood women's luncheon

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Natalie Portman took a flamethrower to the patriarchy. George Clooney admonished what he called the Trump administration's culture of fear. Emma Gonzalez implored people to vote. And host Jenifer Lewis spared no one, from Melania Trump and Kanye West to Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Brett Kavanaugh.

Portman

Nothing was off the table at Variety magazine's Power of Women luncheon held in Beverly Hills on Friday, almost exactly a year since The New York Times and The New Yorker published accounts from dozens of women alleging sexual misconduct by the once-powerful movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Weinstein, who has denied any wrongdoing, was quickly ostracized by the entertainment industry, which helped gain momentum for the #MeToo and Time's Up movements.

In a commanding 15-minute speech, Portman addressed the underrepresentation of women in all industries and laid out guidelines to incite change, such as donating to Time's Up, opting against depicting violence against women in films and hiring women for positions they're not typically considered for. She was being recognized for her humanitarian efforts in co-founding Time's Up, a legal defense fund that was created following the rise of the #MeToo movement to address and combat inequality in the workplace.

The Oscar-winning actress was being recognized for her humanitarian efforts in co-founding Time's Up.

"Be embarrassed if everyone in your workplace looks like you," Portman said.

Portman said Weinstein is "still free" because "our culture protects the perpetrators of sexual violence, not its victims." She added that the Time's Up defense fund has served more than 3,500 people from "workers at McDonald's to prison guards to military personnel to women in our own industry who have faced gender-based harassment, coercion and assault."

"Recently our lawyers helped Melanie Kohler triumph against Brett Ratner and his lawyer Marty Singer...who tried to use Brett's enormous financial advantage over her to try to bully her into silence," Portman said. "Because of our lawyers ... he dropped his case of defamation."

Regina King, an honoree supporting the I Have a Dream Foundation, followed Portman saying "Man, Natalie Portman 2020."

Portman was not the only person to get a standing ovation Friday. Eighteen-year-old Emma Gonzalez, who became a nationally recognized advocate for gun control after surviving the February 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, also brought the well-heeled Hollywood crowd to their feet.

Advocating for March for Our Lives, Gonazelz, wiping away tears, said to the women in the vast ballroom at the Beverly Wilshire hotel, "You know that you are forces to be reckoned with. You can and have inspired peace and understanding and most importantly right now, you can inspire your audience to vote. Now more than ever, women need to continue to rise up."

Melania Trump says she loves Trump, ignores cheating rumors

WASHINGTON (AP)—Melania Trump says she loves President Donald Trump and has "much more important things to think about" than allegations he cheated on her with a porn star, a Playboy Playmate or anyone else.

Mrs. Trump, who was interviewed by ABC while touring Africa last week, said people are just spreading rumors about her marriage.

"I know people like to speculate and media like to speculate about our marriage and circulate the gossip," she said. "But I understand the gossip sells newspapers, magazines ... and, unfortunately, we live in this kind of world today."

She insisted allegations of her husband's infidelities are not a concern.

Trump, who during the 2016 presidential campaign was heard on an old "Access Hollywood" tape talking about groping and trying to have sex with women, has been accused of having multiple affairs. Porn star Stormy Daniels and ex-Playboy Playmate Karen McDougal have said they had sex with him years ago.

Trump has denied the trysts with Daniels and McDougal but has acknowledged reimbursing his lawyer for a $130,000 hush money payment to Daniels. Mrs. Trump has generally kept quiet on the subject.

Asked in the ABC interview if she loves her husband, Mrs. Trump said, "Yes, we are fine. Yes."

She played down a suggestion the repeated rumors of his philandering had put a strain on their marriage.

"It is not concern and focus of mine," she said. "I'm a mother and a first lady, and I have much more important things to think about and to do."

But when asked if the repeated rumors had hurt her, she paused. Then she reiterated the "media world is speculating."

"Yeah, it's not always pleasant, of course," she said. "But I know what is right and what is wrong and what is true and not true."

In this Oct. 6, 2018 photo, First lady Melania Trump pauses as she speaks to media during a visit to the historical Giza Pyramids site near Cairo, Egypt. AP

Portions of Mrs. Trump's interview aired Friday on "Good Morning America." ABC News aired more from the interview during an hourlong special broadcast Friday night, during which she explained why she wore a jacket that said "I really don't care, do u?" on a trip to the border to visit migrant children who had been separated from their parents.

She noted that she wore the jacket getting on and off the plane, but not during her visits with children, and said it was a message to "people and the left-wing media who are criticizing me."

Mrs. Trump said the jacket was a statement that the criticism will not stop her from doing "what I feel is right."

In this photo released on Saturday, Oct. 13 2018 by Buckingham Palace, Britain's Princess Eugenie of York and Jack Brooksbank are photographed in the White Drawing Room, Windsor Castle with from left, back row, Thomas Brooksbank, Nicola Brooksbank, George Brooksbank, Princess Beatrice, Sarah, Duchess of York, Prince Andrew, middle row, Prince George, Princess Charlotte, Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, Maud Windsor, Louis De Givenchy, front row, Theodora Williams, Mia Tindall, Isla Phillips and Savannah Phillips, following their Wedding, at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle on Friday, Oct. 12, 2018. AP

UK fans flocked to TV to watch Princess Eugenie's wedding

LONDON (AP)—The royal wedding of Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank was a big hit in terms of British TV viewership.

ITV said Saturday that it added roughly 2.1 million viewers during its extended morning program that showed live coverage of Friday's wedding at Windsor Castle.

ITV was the only U.K. broadcaster that showed the entire service live from St. George's Chapel.

Competitors BBC and Sky News showed snippets of the wedding and the crowds thronging the streets of Windsor outside the castle.

BBC blamed a failure of its voice recognition system for a subtitle that briefly referred to Eugenie's "beautiful breasts" rather than her "beautiful dress" as she walked up the stairs to the chapel.

Eugenie is the granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth II and ninth in line to the British throne.

'First Man' blasts off behind 'Venom,' 'A Star Is Born'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Neil Armstrong film "First Man" settled for a third-place landing at the North American box office in its opening weekend in theaters. The Ryan Gosling-starrer and a host of newcomers, like the family-friendly "Goosebumps" sequel and the neo-noir mystery "Bad Times at the El Royale," couldn't unseat last week's top two films, "Venom" and "A Star Is Born," which again took first and second place.

As the month of October careens toward a box office record, the crowded marketplace can be a blessing or a curse for some films in their first weekends, although the hope is that they will play for weeks to come.

Such is the idea for Universal Pictures' "First Man," which took flight over the weekend with everything to its advantage—prestige, good reviews (88 percent on Rotten Tomatoes), a movie star (Gosling) and an Oscar-winning director (Damien Chazelle).

Studios estimated Sunday that "First Man" earned $16.5 million in ticket sales from 3,640 North American theaters, and $25 million worldwide. That was on par with expectations, but not exactly an eye-popping number for a space epic that cost nearly $60 million to produce.

For Universal Pictures' president of domestic distribution Jim Orr, the box office intake for a film like "First Man," which primarily appeals to older audiences not inclined to rush out to a movie theater on the first weekend, is going to be "a marathon not a sprint."

"What we know is for these types of adult, fall films for discerning audiences, it's not about the opening weekend," Orr said. "We're very comfortable that it's going to have a long life at the domestic box office."

Audiences for the PG-13 rated "First Man" were primarily older (52 percent over 35), male (56 percent) and Caucasian (67 percent) and gave the film a B+ CinemaScore.

"I never expected 'First Man' to have an opening weekend trajectory that was off the charts," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for box office tracker comScore. "This is a film that has a lot of awards season buzz. It will attract a lot of older viewers and it's going to keep rolling along and getting more and more accolades. 'First Man' will be standing many weeks down the road."

1. "**Venom**," $35.7 million ($69.7 million international).
2. "**A Star Is Born**," $28 million ($20.2 million international).
3. "**First Man**," $16.5 million ($8.6 million international).
4. "**Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween**," $16.2 million ($3.7 million international).
5. "**Smallfoot**," $9.3 million ($14.5 million international).
6. "**Night School**," $8 million ($2.2 million international).
7. "**Bad Times at the El Royale**," $7.2 million ($4 million international).
8. "**The House with a Clock in its Walls**," $4 million ($5.6 million international).
9. "**The Hate U Give**," $1.8 million.
10. "**A Simple Favor**," $1.4 million ($1.9 million international).

The comic book film "Venom," meanwhile, continues to belie poor reviews in its second weekend in theaters. Sony Pictures estimated the film added $35.7 million in ticket sales, down 56 percent from its first weekend, to repeat at No. 1. The film has earned $142.8 million to date from North American theaters.

On the other end of the critical spectrum, Bradley Cooper's "A Star Is Born" continued to ride a wave of goodwill and awards buzz into its second weekend adding $28 million. With total domestic grosses at $94.2 million, the Warner Bros. pic starring Cooper and Lady Gaga will sail past $100 million in no time.

Fourth place went to "Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween" which took in $16.2 million (down from the first film's $23.6 million launch in 2015) while "Bad Times At The El Royale" debuted in seventh place with only $7.2 million.

The well-reviewed young adult film "The Hate U Give," meanwhile, performed well in its expansion. The drama about a police shooting of a black teenager managed to crack the top 10 playing in only 248 locations, placing ninth with $1.8 million. It expands wide next weekend. And Amazon Studios' Timothee Chalamet and Steve Carell addiction drama "Beautiful Boy" opened on four screens to $221,437.

With so many new films at the multiplex, from big budget blockbusters to awards friendly dramas, audiences are helping propel October to record box office earnings. It also means some movies are getting lost in the shuffle.

"There is a relentless onslaught of hits that keep on coming from every genre," Dergarabedian said. "People are a little overwhelmed right now. There's a bevy of riches at the marketplace and some films are going to struggle on opening weekend."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Beyonce, Jay Z appear at City of Hope cancer charity event

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Beyonce paid homage to a high-profile music executive being honored at a charity event to raise money for cancer research.

The singer's vocals soared as she performed three ballads including her 2009 smash hit "Halo" and "Ava Maria" after saluting the character of Warner/Chappell Music Publishing CEO Jon Platt at the City of Hope gala near Los Angeles on Thursday night. She took the stage following her husband, Jay Z, who presented Platt with the Spirit of Life award during a charity event that raised more than $6 million.

"Most people lead with their ego, but you lead with your heart," Beyonce said Platt, who will soon be leaving his position at Warner/Chappell to take on the top role at Sony/ATV, the top publishing company in the music business.

"You have touched so many lives, mine included," she added.

Jay Z called Platt the "Obama of the music industry." The music executive is known for signing publishing deals with Jay Z, Usher, Kanye West and Snoop Dogg. His roster of songwriters at Warner/Chappell includes Lil Wayne, Bruno Mars and Timbaland.

Netflix deal could boost all parts of New Mexico

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—While Albuquerque has been named as Netflix's newest production hub, those in the industry say the benefits are likely to reach all parts of New Mexico.

In fact, The Santa Fe New Mexican reported earlier this week that Netflix executives have already visited Santa Fe to scout for space for a project next year.

Eric Witt, who leads the Santa Fe Film Office, said he had two phone calls Monday from producers within an hour of Netflix announcing plans to purchase Albuquerque Studios and establish a production hub in the city. "They're all over it: 'What's available in Santa Fe? What's available in Santa Fe?' " Witt said. "It's great."

The venture is projected to deliver $1 billion in production spending in New Mexico over the next decade and thousands of jobs, officials said.

Members of the industry described it as a first step toward a booming new era for the state's film and television business.

No winning Mega Millions ticket, jackpot now $654 million

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — No winning lottery ticket was sold for the Mega Millions drawing Friday night, meaning the jackpot climbs to $654 million.

Mega Millions officials say no tickets matched all six numbers to claim the estimated $548 million grand prize. The numbers were 4, 24, 46, 61, 70 and Mega Ball 7.

The next drawing will be Tuesday. The estimated jackpot for that drawing would be the fourth largest lottery prize in U.S. history.

The jackpot has been growing since July, when a group of California office workers won $543 million.

It costs $2 to play the game, but the odds of instant wealth aren't good. The chance of matching all six numbers and winning the jackpot is one in 302.5 million.

Mega Millions is played in 44 states as well as Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Ex-3 Doors Down bassist gets 10 years on gun charge

PASCAGOULA, Miss. (AP)—The founding member and former bassist of the rock band 3 Doors Down has been sentenced to 10 years in Mississippi state prison for possession of a firearm by a felon.

News outlets report Jackson County Circuit Court Judge Robert Krebs gave Todd Harrell the maximum penalty during a hearing Thursday.

Authorities responded to Harrell's home after an alarm went off in June. Harrell's wife told deputies they had got into an argument that turned physical. While deputies were talking to the couple, they noticed guns and drugs in the home.

Harrell had served two years in prison for causing a fatal crash in Nashville in 2013. He testified in 2015 that he had been addicted to prescription drugs and was speeding.

The band, which has had hits including "Kryptonite," suspended Harrell after a second-offense DUI in 2012.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Bill Cosby switches up legal team with appeal looming

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bill Cosby is switching up his legal team as he looks to appeal his conviction and three- to 10-year sentence in his Pennsylvania sex assault case. A court filing Friday says the 81-year-old Cosby is replacing the suburban Philadelphia lawyer who handled his sentencing with a pair of criminal defense attorneys. Joseph Green is exiting after about four months on Cosby's defense team. The new lawyers are Brian Perry and Kristen Weisenberger of Harrisburg. Another lawyer, Peter Goldberger, worked with Green on a motion last week challenging the outcome of the case, a first step toward an appeal. More than a dozen lawyers have come and gone from the case, including Tom Mesereau, who once represented Michael Jackson. Another ex-Cosby lawyer is suing over what he says is more than $280,000 in unpaid bills.

Prince estate to Trump: Stop using music at rallies

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)— Prince's surviving family members are asking President Donald Trump to stop using the late rock star's music at campaign rallies. Prince's "Purple Rain" has frequently been on Trump's playlist at recent rallies, including last week in Southaven, Mississippi. Prince's half-brother Omarr Baker tweeted the estate's opposition to use of any Prince music by Trump. A spokeswoman for the estate confirmed Friday that a request had been made to discontinue using it. A White House spokeswoman referred questions to the Trump campaign, which didn't immediately respond. Prince died in 2016 from an accidental fentanyl overdose at his Paisley Park complex in Chanhassen, Minnesota.

Prince Harry and Meghan arrive in Sydney before 16-day tour

SYDNEY (AP)—Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle arrived in Sydney on Monday, a day before they officially start a 16-day tour of Australia and the South Pacific.

The trip is their only international tour since the Duke and Duchess of Sussex were married in May, apart from a two-day visit to Ireland.

The prince and the former American actress landed on an overcast morning after a commercial flight from London with a brief stopover in Singapore.

They have 76 engagements scheduled over 16 days in Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand. In Australia, they will pet a koala in a Sydney zoo, visit in the drought-stricken Outback town of Dubbo and meet indigenous leaders on Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island, in northeastern Queensland state.

Harry and Meghan were driven from the airport to Admiralty House, the official Sydney residence of Governor General Peter Cosgrove, who represents Australia's head of state, Queen Elizabeth II, Harry's grandmother. The couple had no official functions on Monday following a 22-hour flight.

AP

In this image made from video, Britain's Prince Harry, center right, and his wife Meghan, center left, Duke and Duchess of Sussex, approach a car at an airport in Sydney, Monday, Oct. 15, 2018.

Hundreds of well-wishers gathered with umbrellas outside the airport and Admiralty House in the hope of catching a glimpse of the couple. The crowd cheered as the waving couple was driven through the gates of the harborside mansion.

The tour coincides with the Invictus Games in Sydney which start on Saturday. The sporting event founded by Harry in 2014 gives sick and injured military personnel and veterans the opportunity to compete in sports such as wheelchair basketball.

The couple will attend the games' launch and closing ceremonies.

Harry and Meghan said during a television interview in November that they wanted to promote humanitarian causes close to their hearts across Commonwealth-member countries including Australia.

The visit comes six months after Harry's father Prince Charles made his 16th official visit to Australia, primarily to open the 21st Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast city in Queensland.

Kanye West and Kim Kardashian West visit Uganda

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—Ugandan officials say Kanye West and his wife, the reality TV star Kim Kardashian West, have arrived in Uganda on a private visit.

Information Minister Frank Tumwebaze told The Associated Press late Saturday that West's visit is "an endorsement of our tourism resources." Government spokesman Ofwono Opondo said on Twitter that the American rapper was traveling with his wife.

They are reportedly vacationing in a luxury safari lodge with a view of the River Nile in the northern part of the East African nation.

Their presence in Uganda is seen as a coup for official tourism promoters, who recently were criticized by the president for allegedly not doing enough to promote Uganda's natural attractions.

Boyfriend would rather party with friends than stay home

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my boyfriend just over a year. We live and work together, which I enjoy. He, on the other hand, expressed from day one that all he asks for out of our relationship is "space." I'm fine with that, but now it seems he needs more and more space. (An example: Spending nights at friends' because they go out drinking on the weekends.)

I have told him I think it's selfish because weekends are the only free time both of us have together. And lately, it has become a few weekends out of the month. My friends and family think it's bordering on inappropriate because when you're in a relationship, you want to spend time with the person you love.

I'm at a crossroads. Part of me understands where he's coming from; another part of me thinks it's a cop-out. I'm wondering if I should put up with it for now until we find separate jobs (if that will even solve the problem) or if I should kick him to the curb. Advice?

MATTER OF SPACE IN FLORIDA

DEAR MATTER OF SPACE: A man whose idea of a good time is going out drinking with his buddies to the point that he can't make it home isn't ready for an exclusive relationship. While I don't advise "kicking him to the curb," if your idea of a satisfying relationship is spending weekends enjoying each other's company, tell him you need more than he's prepared to give you and it would be better if one of you moved out.

DEAR ABBY: My wife has fibromyalgia and Behcet's disease, an autoimmune disorder. We also have a 5-year-old daughter with special needs. My wife constantly complains about how much pain she's in as she spends most of her days smoking and playing on her phone. She refuses to exercise and flits from doctor to doctor trying different pills and homeopathic remedies.

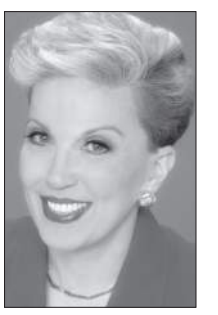
I'm in the military. I work full time and go to college full time. I take care of the cooking and cleaning around the house. She has gained a tremendous amount of weight, and I am no longer physically attracted to her. I'm also beginning to feel like her illnesses are an excuse to take advantage of me. If I hear, "You promised to love me 'in sickness and in health'" one more time, I'll explode. I feel trapped and I want to run. What do I do?

FEELING DOWN IN DELAWARE

DEAR FEELING DOWN: You are carrying a heavy load. But as tempting as it may seem, running away won't make your problems disappear. You have a child who needs you and a wife who is legitimately sick. It's time to explore what services may be available to you and your family through the military. A good place to start would be www.militaryonesource.mil. It is a 24/7 support resource for the military community that offers, among other things, face-to-face non-medical counseling.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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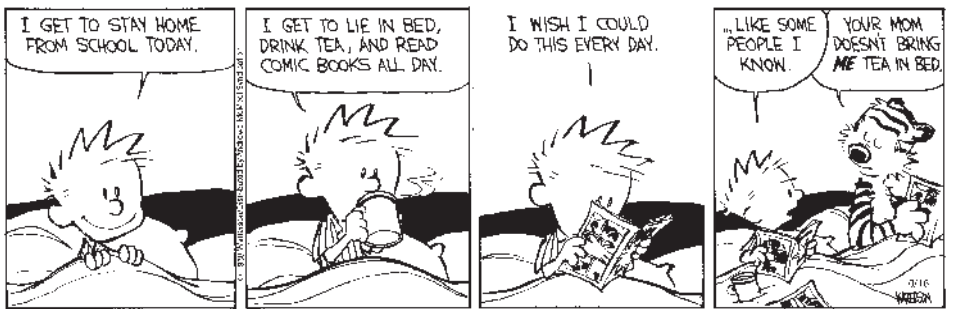
Pastimes

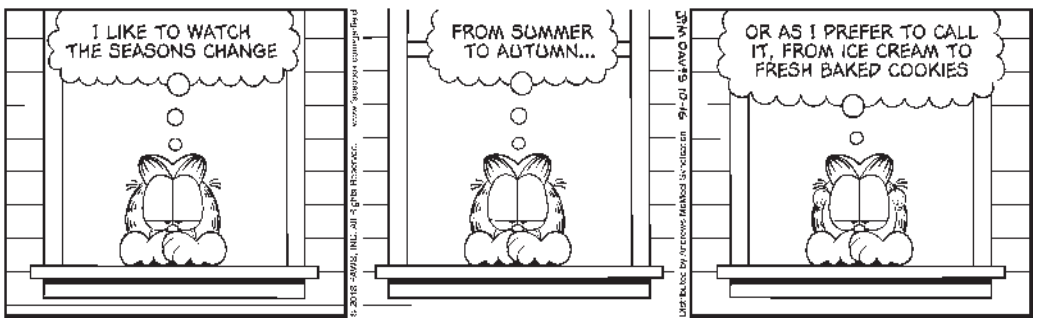
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I GET TO STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL TODAY.
I GET TO LIE IN BED, DRINK TEA, AND READ COMIC BOOKS ALL DAY.
I WISH I COULD DO THIS EVERY DAY.
...LIKE SOME PEOPLE I KNOW.
YOUR MOM DOESN'T BRING ME TEA IN BED.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU'RE SCARED TO GO TO SCREAMVILLE, AREN'T YOU?
SIP
I DON'T DO WELL IN HAUNTED HOUSES, CLAYTON.
THERE WAS AN INCIDENT AT THE JAYCEES' "BARN OF TERROR" A FEW YEARS AGO.
INCIDENT?
I PUNCHED A CHAINSAW-WIELDING GORILLA CLOWN, OKAY? I'M NOT PROUD.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Mosque VIP
5 Leer at
9 "Evita" narrator
12 1492 vessel
13 Michele's movie pal
14 Meadow
15 Minty Christmas treat
17 Switch settings
18 Lifeless
19 Impudent
21 Walks nervously
24 Golf target
25 "Once — a time ..."
26 Cheese variety
30 Felon's flight
31 Petrify
32 Mode lead-in
33 Pulpit figure
35 No neatnik
36 Be overly sweet
37 Top grade
38 Mirren of "The Queen"
40 Ranch measure
42 Salt Lake athlete
43 Bakery purchase
48 JFK info
49 Modern money
50 Make a scarf
51 — Salvador
52 Baseball's Musial
53 "Ditto"

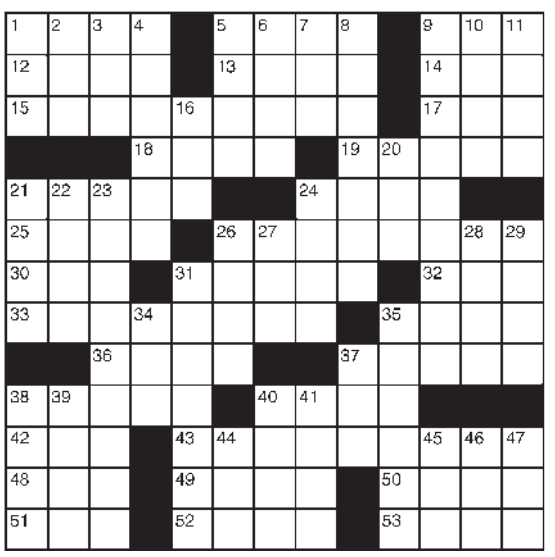
DOWN

1 Business mag
2 Soccer's Hamm
3 Raggedy doll
4 Enrage
5 Killer whale
6 Incite
7 Run after K
8 Ugly building
9 Narrow escape
10 Coop group
11 Not difficult
16 "You bet!"
20 Boxing legend
21 Tabloid writing
22 On — with
23 Fess up
24 Frau's mate
26 Needing liniment
27 Fannie —
28 Matty of baseball
29 Apprehends
31 Candle holders
34 Pub order
35 Dust particles
37 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
38 Colorations
39 Jazz singer James
40 Mystique
41 "Let's go!"
44 Trench
45 Literary collection
46 Kipling lad
47 Summer in Paris

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	U	I	T	■	C	A	R	■	I	O	B	F
I	N	S	E	C	J	R	E	■	A	M	E	N
B	O	R	N	F	R	E	E	■	M	A	N	I
■	■	■	N	O	D	■	M	O	A	N	E	D
S	A	R	I	S	■	T	E	A	R	■	■	■
O	N	U	S	■	F	O	R	F	R	E	E	■
L	T	D	■	P	I	N	G	S	■	V	A	T
■	S	E	T	F	R	E	E	■	L	E	S	S
■	■	■	A	C	E	R	■	A	C	R	T	A
O	D	E	S	S	A	■	E	N	C	■	■	■
P	O	R	T	■	R	E	N	T	F	R	E	E
E	D	G	E	■	M	A	D	E	A	B	E	T
D	O	O	R	■	S	R	S	■	H	I	K	E

Yesterday's answer 10-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Mayer, 41; Kellie Martin, 43; Tim Robbins, 60; Angela Lansbury, 93.

Happy Birthday: Look beyond what's changing around you or any past regrets you have hovering over you. Look forward with a positive attitude. You'll develop a plan that will help you swing from negative to positive. Trust and believe in yourself, not what others say or do. Walk away from unrealistic ultimatums; you'll discover a rewarding alternative. Your numbers are 8, 12, 22, 29, 34, 37, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Stay on course. Completion should be your target. There will be plenty of time after you take care of your responsibilities to revisit something you need more time to mull over. Don't make a snap decision if you aren't ready. ✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get out and about. Visit old friends or sign up for a course that will ensure your qualifications are updated. Make a statement that will leave no doubt in anyone's mind how you feel or what you expect. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): How well you get along with your peers will count. Be willing to compromise as well as offer sound solutions. If a higher-up makes a last-minute change, do your best to work with the powers that be. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Your ideas will transcend into something you enjoy doing. Associate with people who share your opinions and are also interested in maintaining a similar lifestyle. A partnership will bolster your confidence and courage to forge into new territory. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You may not like the changes going on around you, but once you analyze the alternatives, you will realize that, if handled properly, you stand to gain. Compromise and self-control will pay off. Bide your time and be observant. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Implement change that will make your life better. Whether it has to do with learning something new that will help you get ahead or making a physical change that will encourage better health, the plans you put in place look promising. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Keep your emotions in check or you'll end up in a vulnerable position. Stay on top of your responsibilities, and avoid interference and meddlers who are looking for someone to blame for shortcomings that have nothing to do with you. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Put more time and effort into the way you look and how you treat others. The connections you make will offer information that will give you something to think about regarding how to move forward and in which direction. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Work diligently to make things better. What you do will far exceed talking about your point of view and what you would like to see happen. Take it upon yourself to get the ball rolling. It's time to make a move. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't shy away from change. What you have to offer is good enough to complete your plans and to reap the rewards you deserve. Don't sit on the sidelines when you should be in the forefront. Personal gain is apparent. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Matters will get blown out of proportion easily if you are too quick to judge or point the finger at someone. Take a step back and let things unfold naturally. Time is on your side, and patience is encouraged. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Get moving. You have lots to gain by speaking up and putting your plans in motion. Calling on others to pitch in and help will make things move along quickly and help you expand your interests further than you anticipate. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are tenacious, exuberant and intense. You are competitive and unpredictable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				5	3	9	7	
4		3		1		5		
			3	2	9			
3								1
	2						8	
8								4
			8	4	2			
		7		6		9		2
2	4	1	5					

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	4	2	5	9	1	8	6	3
5	1	8	6	3	2	4	7	9
9	6	3	4	8	7	2	5	1
2	3	9	7	1	6	5	4	8
6	8	7	9	5	4	1	3	2
4	5	1	8	2	3	7	9	6
8	7	5	1	6	9	3	2	4
1	2	6	3	4	5	9	8	7
3	9	4	2	7	8	6	1	5

Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PAYMENT OPTIONS **Solution: 12 letters**

B	E	A	E	C	N	A	R	U	S	N	I	S	R	T
A	U	X	P	S	M	A	Y	E	D	O	L	E	E	I
N	Y	D	P	I	T	C	C	I	D	L	R	L	F	B
K	E	T	G	I	N	U	G	C	I	R	L	I	S	E
D	N	U	F	E	R	I	D	B	O	A	O	B	N	D
H	O	A	R	E	T	Y	I	E	W	U	E	O	A	A
S	M	R	O	A	I	T	Y	I	N	V	N	M	R	T
A	U	Z	L	L	C	C	T	M	I	T	O	Ⓣ	T	E
C	O	U	P	O	N	H	T	S	A	F	H	Ⓐ	E	D
P	R	E	I	E	D	C	A	R	D	I	P	Ⓧ	K	T
A	T	N	G	R	E	G	K	A	T	G	L	I	C	E
Y	S	A	A	R	R	E	C	N	A	L	A	B	I	L
P	E	W	I	A	A	D	E	P	O	S	I	T	T	L
A	A	D	N	O	N	H	H	S	S	E	R	P	X	E
L	M	T	I	D	E	R	C	O	N	S	U	M	E	R

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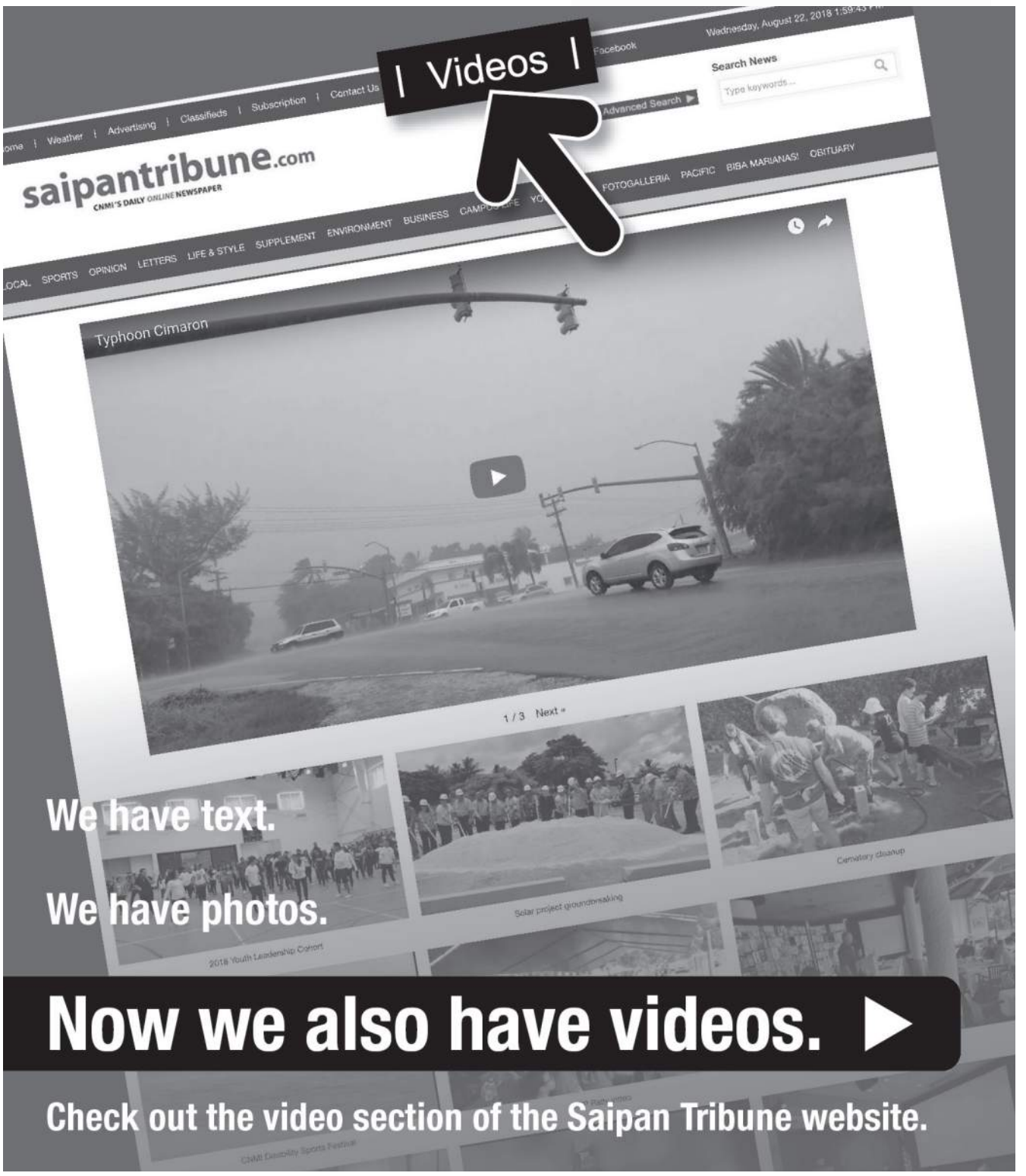

WHATZIT Solution: Under a cloud

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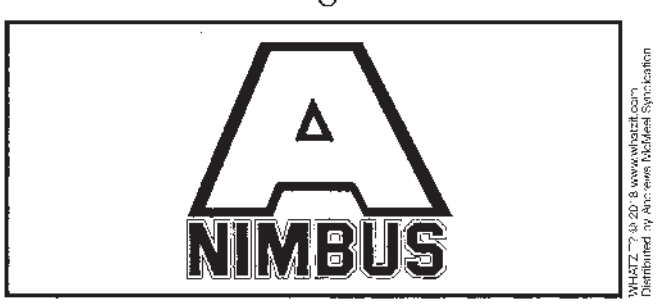

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Find today's solution in classified section

Patriots escape with wild win over Chiefs

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Stephen Gostkowski hit a 28-yard field goal as time expired, and the New England Patriots beat the Kansas City Chiefs 43-40 on Sunday night after blowing a big halftime lead.

Tom Brady passed for 340 yards and a touchdown and ran for another score in his 200th victory as a starting quarterback, tops in NFL history. Brady also passed former teammate Adam Vinatieri for most career wins in the regular season and playoffs combined with 227.

It was the first loss of the season for the Chiefs (5-1).

New England (4-2) led 24-9 at intermission, but Patrick Mahomes directed an impressive rally by Kansas City in the second half. He finished 23 of 36 for 352 yards in his first loss as a starting quarterback, with three of his four TD passes going to Tyreek Hill.

Mahomes threw two interceptions in the first half, but was unflappable down the stretch. He found Hill for a 75-yard touchdown pass that tied it with just over three minutes remaining.

AP

New England Patriots defensive back Duron Harmon, left, prepares to intercept a pass in the end zone intended for Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, center rear, during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 14, 2018, in Foxborough, Mass.

Steelers 28, Bengals 21

In Cincinati, James Conner ran for 111 yards and a pair of touchdowns on the eve of Le'Veon Bell's possible return, and Antonio Brown turned a short pass into a 31-yard touchdown with 10 seconds left as Pittsburgh pulled off another improbable comeback in Cincinnati.

The Steelers (3-2-1) have won eight in a row against their AFC North rival, three times rallying in the final minute at Paul Brown Stadium to keep it going. After Joe Mixon's 4-yard touchdown run with 1:18 left got the Bengals (4-2) thinking this might finally be the time they end the streak, Ben Roethlisberger and the Steelers stunned them again.

Ravens 21, Titans 0

In Nashville, The Ravens piled up a franchise-record 11 sacks in the rain. Za'Darious Smith had three sacks and Patrick Onwuasor had two for the Ravens (4-2), who had six sacks by halftime. They finished a sack off the NFL record for a game, shared by five teams.

Dean Pees and the Titans simply couldn't stop his old team as the Ravens outgained Tennessee 361-106 and punted only once against a defense led by their former defensive coordinator. Pees came out of a short retirement to join first-year head coach Mike Vrabel.

Rams 23, Broncos 20

In Denver, Todd Gurley rushed for a career-high 208 yards and two touchdowns on 28 carries and the Rams celebrated Wade Phillips' homecoming.

The Rams, who had surrendered 31 points in back-to-back games, improved to 6-0 in sending the Broncos (2-4) to their fourth straight loss.

The Broncos pulled to 23-20 on Case Keenum's 1-yard dart to Demaryius Thomas with 1:22 remaining, capping a 77-yard drive that included three defensive penalties. Rams receiver Robert Woods, however, knocked Brandon McManus' onside kick out of bounds, and the Rams ran out the clock with Jared Goff (14 of 28 for 201 yards) twice taking a knee.

Cowboys 40, Jaguars 7

In Arlington, Dak Prescott threw two touchdown passes to Cole Beasley to spark the previously punchless Dallas passing game and rushed for a career-high 82 yards.

Perhaps pumped up by some pregame mingling with UFC fighter Conor McGregor, the Cowboys rolled to a 24-0 halftime lead. Beasley got his first two touchdowns of the season for the NFL's 30th-ranked passing offense that was facing the league's No. 1 pass defense.

Prescott had 151 of his 183 yards passing in the first half because Dallas didn't need to throw while coasting during a second-half blowout that dropped Jacksonville to 3-3.

Dolphins 31, Bears 28, OT

In Miami Gardens, Jason Sanders kicked a 47-yard field goal on the final play of overtime after Cody Parkey missed a 53-yard try for the Chicago Bears, who blew an 11-point lead in the final 16 minutes of regulation.

Miami's Brock Osweiler threw for 380 yards and three touchdowns subbing for Ryan Tannehill, who sat out because of an injured throwing shoulder. Albert Wilson turned two short passes into long touchdowns in the fourth quarter and finished with 155 yards on six receptions.

Falcons 34, Buccaneers 29

In Atlanta, Matt Ryan threw for 354 yards and three touchdowns as the Falcons snapped a three-game losing streak, holding off Tampa Bay in Jameis Winston's return as Buccaneers starting quarterback.

The Falcons (2-4) scored on their first three possessions and held off a wild comeback by Tampa Bay (2-3), avoiding their first 1-5 start since 2007.

Winston and the Bucs almost pulled off a miracle on the final play of the game after driving to the Atlanta 21. With no timeouts, the quarterback took the snap and tried to surprise the Falcons by taking off up the middle of the field. When he was about to be tackled at the 10, he pitched toward receiver Adam Humphries, who couldn't hang on.

Jets 42, Colts 34

In East Rutherford, Jason Myers kicked a franchise-record seven field goals, Sam Darnold threw two touchdown passes, and the Jets held on to win consecutive games for the first time in more than a year.

Morris Claiborne returned the first of three interceptions thrown by Andrew Luck for a touchdown as the Jets (3-3) moved to .500 by taking advantage of mistakes by the short-handed Colts (1-5), who lost their fourth straight.

With Joe Namath and the 1968 Super Bowl-winning team celebrating its 50th anniversary, Darnold was 24 of 30 for 280 yards, with TD throws to Terrelle Pryor and Chris Herndon and an interception to give New York its first back-to-back victories since taking three in a row in Weeks 3-5 last season.

Texans 19, Bills 14

In Houston, Johnathan Joseph's 28-yard interception return for a touchdown with 1:23 remaining lifted the Texans.

Houston trailed by three when Phillip Gaines was called pass interference on Will Fuller in the end zone with 2 minutes remaining, moving the Texans 41 yards to the 1-yard line. But the Texans (3-3) lost 7 yards on three plays, capped by an incomplete pass intended for Ryan Griffin that Matt Milano knocked down to force Houston to kick.

A 27-yard field goal by Ka'imi Fairbairn tied it with 1:34 remaining.

Two plays later, Joseph stepped in front of a pass from backup Nathan Peterman intended for Kelvin Benjamin and dashed untouched into the end zone to put the Texans on top and help them avoid their third straight overtime game.

Kareem Jackson intercepted Peterman with 35 seconds left to secure the victory, dropping Buffalo to 2-4.

Vikings 27, Cardinals 17

In Minneapolis, Latavius Murray helped the Minnesota Vikings revive their running attack with 155 yards and a touchdown on 24 carries, wearing down the Cardinals.

Even Kirk Cousins joined the fun for the Vikings (3-2-1) with an option-style run across the goal line in the third quarter, before throwing to Adam Thielen for a score on the following possession.

Thielen had 11 receptions for 123 yards, his sixth straight 100-yard game to become the first player in the NFL since 1961 to start a season with a streak that long.

Seahawks 27, Raiders 3

In London, Russell Wilson threw for three touchdowns, including one off a botched snap in the second quarter.

Chris Carson rushed for 59 yards and rookie Rashaad Penny gained an additional 43 for the Seahawks (3-3), who played to a vociferously supportive crowd—a London-record 84,922 were in attendance—despite the Raiders (1-5) being the designated home team.

Redskins 23, Panthers 17

In Landover, Josh Norman bounced back from his prime-time benching by intercepting former teammate Cam Newton and forcing a fumble.

Norman ended his 19-game interception drought by catching a jump ball thrown by Newton on a third-and-long play early in the second quarter, his first pick since Dec. 24, 2016. Norman also popped the ball out of Panthers rookie receiver D.J. Moore's hands in a showcase performance against the team that abruptly cut ties with him after his All-Pro 2015 season.

Newton threw for 275 yards and two touchdowns on 27 of 40 passing and rushed for 43 yards in a turnover-marred loss. He engineered a late drive that got the Panthers to the Washington 16-yard line, but threw incomplete on second, third and fourth downs to seal the loss.

Chargers 38, Browns 14

In Cleveland, Philip Rivers threw two touchdown passes to Tyrell Williams—the veteran quarterback threw a block—and Melvin Gordon had three TD runs as the Chargers banged around rookie Baker Mayfield and the Browns.

The 36-year-old Rivers continued one of the best starts of his 15-year career, leading the Chargers (4-2) to their third straight win. Rivers finished 11 of 20 for 207 yards and had only one mistake, an interception midway through the fourth quarter.

San Diego did most of its damage on the ground, with Gordon running for 132 yards and scoring on runs of 4, 10 and 11 yards.

Price, Red Sox bounce back, beat Astros in Game 2

BOSTON (AP) — David Price went home a winner in a postseason start for the first time in his career.

That, he insisted, is all he ever cared about.

"This is bigger than David Price," he said on Sunday night. "This isn't about me. This is about the Boston Red Sox."

Price was good enough, the Red Sox relievers were even better, and Jackie Bradley Jr. delivered a go-ahead, three-run double off the Green Monster to lead Boston to a 7-5 victory over the Houston Astros and tie the AL Championship Series at one game apiece.

Price fell one out short of qualifying for the win, which would have been his first in 11 postseason starts. But it was the first time his team had won a playoff game he started, snapping a record run of October futility.

"It's baby steps," said Price, who entered the night 0-9 in 10 career playoff starts. "I expect myself to be great in big moments, and I haven't done that thus far in my career. But I came here to win, period. I came here to win a World Series, and to do it multiple times. And that's what I'm about."

Game 3 is Tuesday in Houston, followed by two more at Minute Maid Park and a chance for the defending World Series champions to clinch a second straight AL pennant at home. Marwin Gonzalez homered for the Astros, who had won five straight postseason games dating to Game 7 of the 2017 Series.

"We came here and won a game, and they played well tonight," Houston third baseman Alex Bregman said. "It's going to be a fun series, so we're looking forward to going back home."

Price was spotted a two-run lead in the first inning and then fell behind 4-2 before Bradley clanged one off the left-field wall that Gonzalez chased helplessly as it bounced back toward the infield.

Price left leading 5-4 with two on with two out in the fifth before Matt Barnes struck out Gonzalez to end the inning and then pitched a perfect sixth to earn the victory. Ryan Brasier pitched a scoreless inning and erstwhile starter Rick Porcello set the Astros down 1-2-3 in the eighth.

Closer Craig Kimbrel gave up Jose Altuve's RBI single with two outs in the ninth before Bregman launched a high fly to left that Andrew Benintendi caught a step in front of the Monster.

"I knew I missed it," Bregman said. "If I got it, it would have been on the street behind Fenway Park."

Gerrit Cole, who was so dominant in his Division Series start against Cleveland, gave up a double to Mookie Betts—the first batter of the game—as Boston sent eight batters to the plate in the first and scored twice.

The AL West champs tied it in the second on George Springer's two-run double down the right-field line. And when Gonzalez cleared the Monster—and the seats above them — with a two-run homer in the third, it looked like Price was headed for another loss (he has won two postseason games in relief.)

AP
Houston Astros catcher Martin Maldonado fields a ball ruled foul off Boston Red Sox's Jackie Bradley Jr. during the sixth inning in Game 2 of a baseball American League Championship Series on Sunday, Oct. 14, 2018, in Boston.

But Boston, which won the AL East and a franchise-record 108 games, came back in the bottom half, starting with Xander Bogaerts' one-out single and then a double by Steve Pearce that sent Gonzalez crashing back-first into the metal scoreboard on the left-field wall. He fell to the warning track, but after the training staff and manger AJ Hinch went out to check on him he stayed in the game.

"The ball, the wall, he's back-pedaling. He's got to make a decision on whether or not to concede the wall and try to play it off the wall or try to make a catch," Hinch said. "It's a well-placed hit."

Cole walked Devers on four pitches to load the bases and struck out Ian Kinsler on three before Bradley lofted one down the left-field line and off the Monster. As the ball bounced back toward the infield, it hopped on the padding along the side wall, just out of Gonzalez's reach.

"Not really catching a break with it rolling on this awkward piece of padding all the way down was unfortunate," Cole said. "But you put yourself in that position."

Betts scored an insurance run in the seventh, walking to lead off the inning and coming around to make it 6-4 on a wild pitch and a pair of passed balls. He gave Boston a 7-4 lead with an RBI double in the eighth.

In all, Price was charged with four runs on five hits and four walks, striking out four in 4 2/3 innings

Price's teams had lost all 10 of his previous postseason starts, the longest such losing streak in baseball history. He allowed three runs and got just five outs in Game 2 against the Yankees, the only Red Sox loss in the series.

As Price left the field on this night, the crowd rose to applaud the pitcher they booed off the mound in the Division Series, and he tapped the brim of his cap.

"It's definitely appreciated," Price said. "It wasn't the line I dreamed up to have tonight. But our offense, our defense, everybody rallied together."

The Red Sox said Game 1 starter Chris Sale was hospitalized with a stomach illness but Cora said he was still hoping the he would join the team in Houston.

"He was feeling bad and he's at the hospital," Cora said. "From what I know, it's nothing serious. But obviously whenever you have to go to the hospital you've got to be 'worried.'"

Cora said it did not affect his performance in the series opener, which Houston won 7-2

Brewers counting on Jhoulys Chacín in Game 3

LOS ANGELES— This was not the way it was supposed to be. Jhoulys Chacín was not expected to be the Milwaukee Brewers' ace.

When general manager David Stearns signed the veteran right-hander to a two-year, $15.5 million free-agent contract four days before last Christmas, it barely warmed one burner in the Hot Stove League. Yes, Chacín was coming off a nice year with the San Diego Padres but was viewed more as a complementary piece to the Brewers' staff.

Chase Anderson, tabbed as the opening day starter in spring camp by manager Craig Counsell, and Zach Davies were expected to be the leaders of the starting rotation, as they were for much of the 2017 season. Jimmy Nelson, who emerged with that pair to form a reliable triumvirate, hoped to return some time in the second half from major shoulder surgery.

You know what they say about the best-laid plans of men and pitching coaches. Anderson fought his mechanics throughout the season, couldn't keep the ball in the yard (league-leading 30 homers) and was struggling so badly at the end of the season, he hasn't made a postseason roster.

Davies began having trouble with his shoulder in the early going, that issue morphed into lower-back problems and before you knew it, he had missed more than half the season. Accordingly, he has joined Anderson on the sidelines.

Despite all of his hard work in a long, tedious rehab program, Nelson never made it back to the mound in a real game this season. He now has his sights set on 2019.

While those calamities played out, Chacín kept taking the ball. And taking the ball. Others would come and go in the rotation but he took the mound every five days and invariably got the job done. When the regular season was done, Chacín was the only starter, or "intial out-getter," as Counsell calls them, to make every turn, 35 of them in all.

Chacín, 30, posted a 15-8 record and 3.50 ERA over 192 2/3 innings, third-most of his career. Remarkably, on a team that won 96 games in the regular season, he was the only "initial out-getter" to post at least 10 victories.

Counsell wisely lined up Chacín to be available for a game No. 163 if needed, and when the Brewers caught the Chicago Cubs for the division lead to force that winner-take-all game at Wrigley Field, he got the ball. To no one's surprise, Chacín delivered again, allowing only one hit and one run in 5 2/3 innings in the 3-1 victory that sealed the NL Central crown.

Now, when they need him most, Chacín will take the mound Monday night at Dodger Stadium in Game 3 of the NL Championship Series against Los Angeles. The series is tied at 1, so Game 3 looms as a pivotal point for two teams hoping to advance to the World Series, which would be a repeat performance for the Dodgers but the first trip for the Brewers since 1982.

"This was my dream, to pitch in the playoffs, and I thought Milwaukee was the right place to do it," said Chacín, who delivered five shutout innings on short rest in Game 2 of the Brewers' NL Division Series sweep of the Colorado Rockies.

"I can't be more happy right now. I already pitched one game in the playoffs. Now, I have a chance to pitch one more game, maybe two, and hopefully pitch in the World Series. That's something that I always dreamed about."

That Chacín would emerge as a staff ace at this stage of his career was an improbable development. He began his career in the hitter-friendly light air of Colorado, posting a 38-48 record and 3.78 ERA over six seasons. After that came stops in Arizona, Atlanta, Los Angeles (Angels) and San Diego, where he caught the Brewers' attention by going 13-10 with a 3.89 ERA in 32 starts in 2017.

US headed to Women's World Cup after routing Jamaica

FRISCO, Texas (AP)—The U.S. women's national team breezed through CONCACAF qualifying to secure a spot in the World Cup next year in France.

The Americans still have to face Canada.

"Just because we qualified for the World Cup doesn't mean we're going to take our foot off the gas," Alex Morgan said. "We want to win this tournament and we always think of playing Canada as an important game for us."

Morgan and Tobin Heath each scored twice in the first half and United States earned a World Cup berth with a 6-0 victory over Jamaica on Sunday night in the semifinals.

Heath's first came in the first two minutes of the match and she added a second in the 29th. Megan Rapinoe, Julie Ertz and Morgan also had first-half goals as the United States built a 5-0 lead.

Morgan's second goal was a penalty kick in the 84th minute.

Canada, ranked No. 5 in the world, also clinched a spot in France with a 7-0 victory over Panama in the earlier semifinal at Toyota Stadium.

The top three finishers in the CONCACAF Women's Championship represent the region in France, so the winners of both semifinals earned a berth before the final.

The title match between the United States and Canada and the third-place game are set for Wednesday in Frisco. The fourth-place finisher will face Argentina in a playoff for a spot in France.

AP

United States defender Becky Sauerbrunn defends against Jamaica forward Jody Brown during the second half of a CONCACAF women's World Cup qualifying tournament soccer match in Frisco, Texas, Sunday, Oct. 14, 2018.

"This is obviously going to be a different change of pace for us in this tournament because we haven't faced a lot of shots from other teams, from opponents. But I think it will be good for us. We want to play the best teams in the world and Canada's continuing to evolve and play well," Morgan said.

The top-ranked United States is the defending champion of the sport's premier event, having won the final in the 2015 World Cup against Japan. It was the team's third World Cup title.

Jamaica, ranked No. 64th in the world, is still vying to become the first Caribbean nation to go to a World Cup. The Reggae Girlz upset Costa Rica 1-0 in the group stage before routing Cuba 9-0 to finish second to Canada in Group B.

The island nation re-started its women's national team program in 2014 after a six-year hiatus, boosted by the support of Bob Marley's oldest daughter, Cedella Marley.

Coach Hue Menzies said the match against the United States was a good test.

"We came ready to play five games, and we're playing five games. So it's a big plus for our program. Obviously we're trying to create some history. We're still on track," Menzies said.

The United States has dominated the competition in the tournament. The team averaged six goals a game in its group stage, winning all three matches. They took 114 shots, far more than the second-best team in the field, Canada (77). In their final group-stage match, the U.S. women outshot injury-depleted Trinidad and Tobago 59-0.

The United States outshot Jamaica 26-1.

Butler practices again with Wolves, as opener nears

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jimmy Butler is still suiting up for the Minnesota Timberwolves, with the opener three days away.

Despite his preference to play elsewhere, signs have begun to point to him staying with the Timberwolves at least to start the season. Butler took part in practice on Sunday, the second time he has done so since training camp began with his trade request as the focal point of the team.

"They want me to go out here and hoop to the best of my abilities," Butler said. "Make sure I'm healthy, compete, because that's what I love to do, and do it for the guys in the same jerseys as me."

Butler made a surprising, and reportedly disruptive, appearance with the Wolves during their workout on Wednesday. They canceled practice on Thursday, after Butler went on ESPN to try to explain his motivations and frustrations in a wide-ranging interview that included criticism of the consistency of the effort by teammates Karl-Anthony Towns and Andrew Wiggins. When the Wolves played a preseason game in Milwaukee on Friday, Butler stayed back. The team was off on Saturday.

"I can go out there and I can play," Butler said. "It's all about playing hard. I think I can do that. When I'm gassed and I'm tired, I'll look down at Thibs and say, 'Thibs, I need a break.'"

Though Butler stopped short of assuring his presence on the court on Wednesday when the Wolves visit San Antonio, coach Tom Thibodeau said he expected Butler to play against the Spurs as long as he remains on the roster. The official stance of Thibodeau, who serves as the president of basketball operations, and general manager Scott Layden over the last three weeks has been that the Wolves will deal Butler if it makes sense for the direction of the team.

BUCO

From Page 28

ter at 1:16:36. Ding Ramos rounded out the Top 3 finishers for the mountain bike category with a time of 1:23:10.

In the 55 and above age group MTB category, Floro Derexes claimed first place honors after crossing the finish line in 1:27:22, while Boboy Aguilar finished almost 10 minutes behind Derexes with his 1:37:03.

Last weekend's event was part of Saipan bikers preparation for the 2018 Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race that will be held on Dec. 1. The pre-Hell series is a collaboration of Saipan Cyclers, Triathlon Association of the CNMI, and Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation.

"Ricky Castro, Vince Seman, and I decided to take over organizing the Hell of Marianas race in 2016. We also decided to host three preliminary races," said Jay Diyco, who heads Saipan Cyclers. Castro and Seman are the presidents of TRAC and NMICF, respectively.

"Hosting these preliminary races is one way to promote camaraderie. This is also part of our training for future races. The next preliminary race for the Hell of Marianas Series will be on Nov. 11, which will be in tandem with the Saipan Lions Unity Club," Diyco added.

MPU

From Page 28

chipped in one each. Quintos drew first blood for Kanoa in the 24th minute, while Mersai had back-to-back goals with her first posted in the 30th and the second in the 35th minute. Tolentino had her goal in the 45th, while Santos closed out for Kanoa a minute later.

The Masters division futsal will continue this Sunday with Matansa battling Tan-Holdings in the first game at 4pm and MP United challenging Kanoa in the second at 5:15pm.

Meanwhile, the 11 a side soccer competition also started last week at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville with Shirley's FC recording the first win of the season.

Shirley's dominated Southern United FC in the curtain-raiser, 5-1.

Joannah Carreon towed Shirley's to the easy win after delivering a hat trick, which she made in succession. Her streak of goals began in the 35th minute, while her final two were tallied in the 77th and 79th. Stella McCallion gave Shirley's its first goal in the 12th minute, while the team's last came from Maryjoy Aniana in the 87th. Katrina Costales had the lone goal for Shirley's and she scored a minute before the 45-minute first half ended.

In other results, Paire FC forced a draw against Kanoa, 4-4, after getting an own goal right in the last minute of the match.

Gillian Villagomez handed Paire two goals, while Guine Borja added one. Lalaine Pagarao also had a brace for Kanoa, which got one goal apiece from Therize Millare and Mary Kay Alferos.

Women's league games at the NMISTC are played every Monday and Wednesday night with the first match set for 6pm and the second at 8pm.

GSM

From Page 28

Flores walking. Ton Tenorio batted next and his single brought Villagomez home and moved the Mariners within one, while Flores advanced to second. Flores stayed there, as Nate Smith was struck out by closer Celis and Pat Tenorio flied out to center field. Then in the ensuing play with Shane Yamada letting go of Celis' pitch, Flores went down on a pick-off with GSM relief catcher Nakamura throwing to third baseman Kapileo for the tag out and the end of the semis series.

The series started last week with GSM also recording a close victory in the opener, 8-6.

Then in Game 2, it was another tough battle with GSM taking a 3-1 lead after three complete innings. Nakamura and Diego Camacho reached off RBIs walks in the first inning and the former later hit a single that brought Ton Camacho home in the second. The Mariners' lone run in the first three innings was courtesy of Yamada who scored off a passed ball. GSM starting pitcher Lorenzo Sebaklim had a 1-2-3 inning in the first and added three more strikeouts in the next two before the Mariners finally found their form in the fourth.

Ton Tenorio had a two-run single at the top of the fourth, while Pat Tenorio and K.J. Guerrero reached off Yamada's sacrifice fly and Villagomez's single, respectively. Herman Kintol recorded the fifth run for Mariners off a GSM error, as their team grabbed the lead, 6-3.

However, GSM quickly regained the upper hand with its own five-run surge at the bottom of the fourth. Diego Camacho had an RBI single and also scored off Kapileo's single, while the three other runs came from a wild pitch, fielder's choice, and passed ball for GSM's 8-6 advantage.

The lead was trimmed down to one, 8-7, when Yamada scored off GSM's error at the top of the fifth inning and the tally remained, as both teams went without a run for three straight innings. Lorenzo Sebalik shut down the Mariners, as he got four more strikeouts before being relieved by Celis late in the ninth inning.

Earlier at top of the eighth, GSM ended its silence and Camacho's run eventually gave the squad the insurance, while the Mariners fell short in the homestretch to bow out of contention.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	4	2	0	.667	130	145
New England	3	2	0	.600	133	108
N.Y. Jets	3	3	0	.500	165	139
Buffalo	2	4	0	.333	76	138
South						
Tennessee	3	3	0	.500	87	107
Houston	3	3	0	.500	135	137
Jacksonville	3	3	0	.500	109	126
Indianapolis	1	5	0	.167	152	180
North						
Cincinnati	4	2	0	.667	174	158
Baltimore	4	2	0	.667	153	77
Pittsburgh	3	2	1	.583	171	154
Cleveland	2	3	1	.417	128	151
West						
Kansas City	5	0	0	1.000	175	129
L.A. Chargers	4	2	0	.667	175	144
Denver	2	4	0	.333	120	154
Oakland	1	5	0	.167	110	176

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	3	2	0	.600	106	104
Dallas	3	3	0	.500	123	103
Philadelphia	3	3	0	.500	137	117
N.Y. Giants	1	5	0	.167	117	162
South						
New Orleans	4	1	0	.800	180	140
Carolina	3	2	0	.600	121	114
Tampa Bay	2	3	0	.400	141	173
Atlanta	2	4	0	.333	167	192
North						
Chicago	3	2	0	.600	139	96
Minnesota	3	2	1	.583	140	148
Green Bay	2	2	1	.500	115	114
Detroit	2	3	0	.400	125	137
West						
L.A. Rams	6	0	0	1.000	196	118
Seattle	3	3	0	.500	143	117
San Francisco	1	4	0	.200	118	146
Arizona	1	5	0	.167	82	139

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IT&E Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 Basketball League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Armatech's Haejun Park, center, and Islander Rent A Car's Phil Guiang jockey for position in the rebound play during their game in the IT&E Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 Mixed Masters Brotherhood Basketball League at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Islander Rent A Car's Ken Viray pulls up for a shot against Armatech's Bernard Montano.

Armatech's Bong Malasarte, right, tries to muscle his way against the defense of a Pacific Postal Plus player.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Butch Sublemente takes off for a shot during their game against Imperial Pacific International.

Islander Rent A Car's Ed Pangelinan unloads a jumper in front of the outstretched arms of Armatech's Bernard Montano.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Paulo Rafols, left, challenges the defense of Islander Rent A Car's Paulo Sanguyo.

Armatech's Stephen Tolosa, center, shuts the door on Islander Rent A Car's Paulo Sanguyo.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Sean Rabasto looks for a teammate to pass the ball to, as two Islander Rent A Car players pressure him.

Patriots escape with wild win over Chiefs

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Price, Red Sox bounce back, beat Astros in Game 2

PAGE 25

GSM sweeps way to finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Go See Mark finished off the Mariners with a 9-8 win in Game 2 of their semis series in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The sweep in the short best-of-three semis allowed GSM to set up a finals showdown against pennant champions Chalan Kanoa Bears.

The finals series between the Top 2 teams in the elimination round will be a best-of-five affair and will start next week.

Diego Camacho and Franco Nakamura combined for five of GSM's total runs with the former registering the last one at the bottom of the eighth inning and giving the team enough cushion. Byron Kaipat, Kelvin Kapileo, Tom Camacho, and L.J. Sebaklim added one run apiece.

Diego Camacho reached off Kapileo's RBI walk to hand GSM a 9-7 lead with only one out. GSM had a chance to increase its advantage, as it loaded the bases with just one out. Kapileo made it all the way to third, while Kaipat and Roy Celis were in second and first, respectively. However, Kapileo and Kaipat were left stranded, as the Mariners managed to pull a double play with Celis beaten to second and Sebaklim at first. Second baseman Shane Yamada threw to shortstop Pat Tenorio for the second out and the latter made the heave to first baseman Jon Villagomez for the third and last.

After the big defensive stop, the Mariners were off to a good start at the top of the ninth inning with Villagomez delivering a single and Tyler

See GSM on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Go See Mark batter practices his swing before Game 2 of their semis series against the Mariners in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United Football Club, left, and TanHoldings FC players battle for possession during the first half of their futsal game in the 2018 Dove Fall Women's League last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

MPU blanks TanHoldings; Matansa wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Masters division of the futsal competition in the 2018 Dove Fall Women's League kicked off last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex with MP United Football Club and Matansa FC posting contrasting victories,

In the first game, Matansa survived Kanoa, 6-5, while in the second match, MP United eased past TanHoldings, 3-0.

Tomoko Bogdan, Laarni Zapanta, and Chiharu Sato scored for MP United.

Matansa also spread the wealth in its opener against Kanoa with five of its players lighting up the board. Ivan Gozum had a pair for Matansa, including the go-ahead in the 48th minute. Her other goal was registered in the 38th minute, while Ratree Ditwiset also made a brace, scoring in the 46th and 39th. Bunruang Brasuell and Elna Curate were the other players who delivered for Matansa, hitting their target in the 10th and 24th minute, respectively.

Kathy Mersai handed Kanoa two goals, while Merlie Tolentino, Amelia Quintos, and Lanie Santos

See MPU on Page 26

Buco, Isip top Pre-Hell Race Series 2

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Joel Buco and Mark Isip took the first place honors in their respective divisions in the Pre-Hell Race Series 2 held last Sunday.

Buco pedaled past the rest of the competitors in the road bike division of the nearly 30-kilometer race after clocking in at 1:07:10. Buco and the rest of the bikers headed out of Mariana Resort & Spa to the Mobil gas station in Tanapag and then proceeded to Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff. They then went for the last stretch of the race from the Banzai Cliff checkpoint to the finish line across the closed Mariana Resort & Spa.

Joining Buco in the Top 3 (men's overall) were J.C. Libut and Nap Dizon with the former surrendering second place to the latter by a hairline. Dizon reached the finish line at the 1:08:16 mark, while Libut submitted 1:08.17.

"I've been preparing for this race by practicing at least 200 meters per week. Personally, I aim to finish at least in the Top 5," Dizon commented before last weekend's competition."

Meanwhile, Isip persevered through the steep inclines and the winding roads to finish atop the mountain bike category after clocking in at 1:14:36. Rusty Valino trailed Isip closely, finishing just a few minutes behind the lat-

See BUCO on Page 26

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Bikers line up at the starting line of the Pre-Hell Race Series 2 last Sunday at Mariana Resort.